Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-96-122 *24 June 1996*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab: Mubarak Gives Speech at Cairo Summit Opening

NC2206100896 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0856 GMT 22 Jun 96

[Speech by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak at the Cairo Summit Conference at the International Conference Center at Madinat al-Nasr in Cairo—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God the merciful and compassionate, your majesties, excellencies, and highnesses, Arab League Secretary General, members of the delegations: It pleases me to declare the opening of the extraordinary Arab Summit, the summit of harmony, solidarity, and peace. I pray to God almighty that this summit will be the beginning of good and pride for the entire Arab nation. Allow me brothers to deliver a brief opening speech to set forth Egypt's views of the Arab nation's goals at present and in the near future.

Your majesties, excellencies, and highness? General, members of delegations: With sentiments of a mity and appreciation, I welcome you on Egypt's soil among your brethren and kinsfolk, who take pride in your eagerness to participate in this summit. This summit convenes at an appropriate time and seeks to safeguard the supreme pan-Arab goals and offers definite proof of the vitality of this glorious nation, which has been and will remain "You are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind." [Koranic verse]. This nation has proved its capability of carrying the trust, facing up to responsibility, and rising to the level of events when circumstances require. This nation has demonstrated that it will not agree to remain in disarray and fragmentation or give in to inability and paralysis or hesitate to play its role in making a new world and proceed to an age full of exciting developments and deep transformations.

I hardly need to say that the convening of this summit, at this particular time and on this high level, is not a coincidence, is not an expression of apprehension or anxiety, and is not a reaction to any particular event or development. The convening of this summit is a logical and normal event in view of the delicate stage that our major cultural march is passing through. It convenes as a result of the important issues that we must discuss frankly, objectively, and honestly, realizing our responsibility for protecting the basic interests of our one nation and promoting its ability to forge ahead to the horizons of the future. These considerations were behind the calls made by many of us throughout the past years to hold an expanded summit to respond to the nation's aspirations and express its determination to unify ranks and stand and work out an integrated concept of the future with all its hopes, dangers, and challenges.

Those same factors were behind the bilateral and multilateral Arab summits which were held to achieve whatever could be achieved within those limited frameworks until the situation became ripe for the holding of an expanded Arab summit. We thank God that this has recently become possible thanks to your rapid and sincere efforts and to your correct assessment of the right time to move.

The contacts we held together during planning and preparation for the summit showed that the primary issue that concerns us and preoccupies the minds of our peoples is the need to close Arab ranks, clear Arab air, and deepen solidarity and cooperation among the peoples and countries of the Arab nation. This is dictated by the fact that we have a common objective and destiny; that we are facing grave challenges; and that we are eager to place the differences among our united family in their true limited proportion, to prevent them from aggravating, and to make the needed efforts to resolve them through effective mechanisms that ensure continuity for our work and create the right climate for good intentions and virtuous efforts. In such a proper atmosphere, we can hold discussions and work collectively to protect our pan-Arab security and defend it against threats and dangers without encroaching upon the rights or interests of others. Our nation does not conceal aggression or seek to wrong anyone. We believe in coexistence with other nations fairly and justly and we acknowledge others' right to protect their interests and exercise their rights. We believe that balanced relations among the various nations lie in equality in rights and duties and in the application of the internationally-recognized principles and rules.

As I said in my speech on 22 March 1995, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Arab League, which is the home of the Arabs and the vehicle of their unified will, the deep regional and international changes these days dictate that we unite our word and coordinate our steps more than ever before, with a view to agreeing on a clear strategy to manage our collective relationship with the new world and the giant economic blocs that emerged in the past few years, and choose the method of dealing with the host of new systems and values that have begun to take root in international relations.

I said it then, and I repeat it in front of Your Excellencies now, our venerable nation is fully qualified to contribute effectively to this historic global transformation. It is qualified for this role by virtue of its history, heritage, its store of knowledge and science based on intellect, wisdom, and faith in the unity of human heritage, and

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its consistent quest to attain the objective—truth without exaggeration or deviation.

Allow me to refer to my proposal of March 1995 to formulate a new Arab charter of honor that would preclude the reappearance of new destructive disagreements within our Arab family and guarantee that any conflicts among ourselves would be contained within limits that would not permit them to erupt in a manner capable of threatening our pan-Arab security. This charter would ensure that we would all observe the principles and rules of the Arab League Charter, notably, respect for each member country's sovereignty, independence, and regional peace. Each of us would pledge not to intervene in the others' internal affairs and we would all settle our problems peacefully.

Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses, when we review current regional conditions, the first thing we notice is that there is an urgent need to strengthen the movement toward a comprehensive and just peace and to ensure that all the concerned parties adhere to the foundations on which this peace is based, in accordance with the formulas developed by the international community over the years, throughout numerous developments, and in line with the agreements accepted by the concerned parties themselves. We hardly need to reaffirm that in the Arab nation's view peace is a constant, strategic objective. We are not advocates of war or violence. Peace is the aim toward which the venerable heavenly religions exhort us. Peace is the necessary condition for achieving every nation's hopes of economic development and prosperity. Hence, in choosing peace, we do this from a position of strength and confidence, not as a result of weakness or lack of alternatives.

We insist on following the path of peace and continuing the struggle until it is attained and we can reap its fruits. There is no one among us who wants to restore the region to a state of war and destruction or revert to the no-war, no-peace state. Indeed we are sincerely resolved to wage the battle of peace until the end and accept its challenges and consequences as long as the other party shares our view on this and agrees to bear the commitments and responsibilities of peace. By its very nature, peace is a legal and actual state that can be reached only when the two sides really want it. Maintaining peace requires a mutual desire to do so.

It is perhaps appropriate here to add some points that I consider basic and necessary to clarify the right concept of peace from our viewpoint, not only from an Arab point of view, but from the point of view of the international community of which we are an indivisible part and are not separate from its values and principles:

1. The peace we seek to achieve is a comprehensive and fair one, a peace whose links will continue and its steps will not stop before arriving at the goal on which the parties agreed with large international approval, and after signing final agreements with all parties of the neighboring countries which have not yet reached peace treaties with Israel—Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinian Authority.

2. The negotiations that we all must seek to resume and continue to achieve comprehensive peace must not move into a void. The negotiations are governed by the framework which was agreed upon at the Madrid Conference, that is, commitment to the UN Security Council resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and the land-for-peace principle. This can be achieved through complete withdrawal from the Golan, Lebanon, and realizing the Palestinian people's political legitimate rights by enabling them to exercise their right to determine their future and establish their independent state.

3. It is unacceptable for any party to seek by word or deed to violate these legal terms of reference, because they constitute the basis on which the bilateral and multi-sided negotiations were held since the convening of the Madrid Conference at the end of October 1991. This framework is binding to all parties and does not accept that these parties deflect from or violate it.

4. No party has a right to exclude from the negotiations anything that it wants to exclude or avoid discussing. All parties are committed to negotiating all issues placed on the agenda in accordance with the Madrid Conference; foremost of these are the issues relating to determining the final status of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. Should any party allow itself to select what it agrees to negotiate and what it rejects, this means that the other parties must have the same right, which would take the peace process back to square one and even torpedo its foundations.

5. The principle of good faith in negotiating requires the parties to commit themselves to the agreements they reach accurately and honestly. Otherwise, it would be impossible to continue and complete the peace steps, and even the agreements reached in the past would become fragile. This would dispel the masses' trust in peace and shake their faith in creative coexistence with the other party.

6. While avoiding threats and the imposition of faits accomplis on the other party in the negotiations, namely Israel, and while having no plans to fail to implement our commitments, we urge it, by the same logic and by viewing things from the same perspective, to sternly fulfill its pledges and observe its commitments to the peace process, away from threats, attempts to impose the

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fait accompli, or the adoption of an extremist position not based on the agreed-upon terms of reference.

7. We have always believed that a just and comprehensive peace is the only way to achieve security and stability for all the parties. Security is not achieved by occupying others' land and ignoring their legitimate rights, by embracing theories of regional expansion and superiority, by stockpiling weapons of mass destruction, or by practicing oppression and violence. Such acts undermine the foundations of peace and security, threaten stability and development, and harm confidence in a better future.

Based on these concepts and principles, we call on the new Israeli Government to cooperate with us without reluctance to complete peace and to prove that it is sincerely committed to a genuine peace as accepted by the world community, no more no less.

We do not build our policy on prejudgments; we believe only what we actually see on the ground; we base our decision only on objective and firm facts; and we do not place obstacles in the way of the sublime objectives in which we believe and to which we dedicate all our effort.

Brothers, in these moments we feel we have a rendezvous with our destiny and that we again face the major challenge of to be or not to be. I have no doubt that our nation, the holder of the great message, is fully qualified to confront this challenge. It can make its way toward the new horizon with firm, confident, and courageous steps, with a solid and united will, and with a comprehensive view that will lead us to the position that fits us.

The nation and its leadership are determined to move toward a new dawn, spreading light worldwide. No force, no matter how strong, can frustrate this major dream as long as we have pledged to God and ourselves to accept the challenge, for our present and future, and for the coming generations of our righteous sons, the bearers of the banners of struggle for a better future and the guards of the construction and development process. May God grant us success and watch over our work. He is the best of supporters. Peace be upon you.

Inter-Arab: Algerian President Addresses Arab Summit Closed Session

NC2206180396 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1655 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)—Algerian President Liamine Zeroual expressed his country's satisfaction with the convening of the plenary Arab summit in Cairo today, noting that Algeria is participating in this summit out of its conviction that it is "a precious opportunity" to revive the mechanisms of inter-Arab consultation on the highest levels and on a comprehensive and regular basis.

In a speech he delivered to the summit's closed session, which followed the public opening session this morning, Zeroual declared that Arab consultations must primarily search for methods of attaining reconciliation among all Arab countries and surmounting their existing disagreements in order to focus on the collective Arab future in an atmosphere of solidarity.

Referring to the issue of terrorism, President Zeroual asserted that it requires collective Arab mobilization because terrorism is undermining the security, stability, and economic development of many Arab countries. He said this issue needs urgent and effective remedies.

The Algerian president declared that this is a time for mobilization and real solidarity, not internal divisions and the dissipation of resources.

He called for cutting off the sources that supply terrorists with weapons and money.

Zeroual affirmed that Algeria will always remain an active and committed party in any action that seeks to unite the Arabs and pool their resources.

Inter-Arab: Bahraini Amir Addresses Arab Summit

JN2206152696 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1330 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Jun (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, said his country appreciates the genuine Arab stands of all Arab brothers who denounced the recent Iranian scheme to interfere in Bahrain's domestic affairs and the acts of sabotage and riots associated with it. His highness urged the Arab states to establish effective Arab coordination to confront and fight extremism and terrorism in order to protect all parts of the Arab body.

This came in the speech His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah delivered at the first working session of the Arab summit which started in Cairo today.

His highness said: At a time when we are facing the challenges of achieving peace, we are also facing today a phenomenon which is threatening the national and pan-Arab security of our states and peoples; namely, the phenomenon of terrorism and extremism which has turned into one of the most serious phenomena in our contemporary world.

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His highness stressed: This phenomenon is today being confronted and denounced. However, it is receiving support and backing from regional and international circles which found in it an appropriate tool for interfering in the internal affairs of other states, for undermining their security and stability, and for implementing the schemes of these circles. [passage omitted]

Following is the text of the speech:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Brother President; Your Majesties, Highnesses, and Excellencies; Brothers: God's peace and blessings be upon you. On behalf of my brothers the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council member states and on my own behalf, I greet you all. I also thank His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for his invitation to attend this major brotherly gathering which heralds the beginning of a new Arab era and a new chapter in relations among the brothers on the comprehensive pan-Arab level to join ranks and revive the Arab solidarity and to build it on new, clear and firm foundations. These foundations are derived from the pan-Arab principles and the past experiences, whose lessons on the political and strategic levels of our joint Arab actions must be learned.

I am also pleased to express my appreciation to His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak for his comprehensive speech, which contained a thorough presentation of the objectives of this historic conference.

We are in dire need for such a pan-Arab gathering to discuss and study matters and issues of concern to us and the developments, which are taking place around us and which influence our fate and the future of our nation. The experience of the past six years is sufficient for us to understand the importance of our unity and the need to unify our positions.

Esteemed brothers: The summit is being convened under extremely critical circumstances in view of the pan-Arab situation, which requires everybody to do his best to strengthen it and close its ranks. The Arab nation adheres to peace as a strategic option to bring about justice, restore rights, and provide security, because it believes that security and stability are the only way to build this region, realize prosperity for its peoples, and save it from the whirlpool of violence and wars.

The Arab nation responded to regional and international efforts to achieve that goal, particularly those efforts which began at the Madrid conference in 1991—a conference whose principles were based on achieving just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in accordance with international legitimacy, Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the land-for-peace principle.

What was achieved at the Madrid conference constitutes progress on the road to the desired peace. This progress should continue and be enhanced. The peace process, which started in Madrid should not stop, because any halt to it will return tension and violence to the region. Proceeding from this principle, Israeli should commit itself in letter and spirit to the peace process and its principles and objectives.

In order to achieve that goal, the Arab side will need to bring closer the positions of the parties involved and reach a common vision of the peace process and its principles, including the land-for-peace principle, without which we cannot realize any true peace. The Arabs should also work to achieve the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

On the same Arab level, and vis-a-vis the requirements of building a comprehensive peace as well as what our Arab peoples are waiting for in terms of development, prosperity, and progress, activating the role of the Arab League—the house that groups the Arabs and is their protective umbrella—will continue to be one of the most important pan-Arab requirements for our joint Arab action.

Esteemed brothers: At a time when we are facing the challenges of achieving peace, we are also facing today a phenomenon which is threatening the national and pan-Arab security of our states and peoples; namely, the phenomenon of terrorism and extremism, which has turned into one of the most serious phenomena in our contemporary world.

This phenomenon is today being confronted and denounced. However, it is receiving support and backing from regional and international circles which found in it an appropriate tool for interfering in the internal affairs of other states, for undermining their security and stability, and for implementing the schemes of these circles.

Bahrain—whose Arab people have recently suffered the negative repercussions of such interference, which employs terrorism and violence—appeals to your esteemed Arab gathering to establish effective Arab coordination to confront and fight this phenomenon in order to protect all parts of the Arab body.

At the same time, Bahrain appreciates the genuine Arab stands of all Arab brothers who denounced the recent Iranian scheme to interfere in Bahrain's domestic affairs, and the acts of sabotage and riots associated with it.

Esteemed brothers: In order for our fraternal states to take effective pan-Arab positions toward their causes,

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they must deal with their bilateral relations in a direct practical manner, particularly regarding border issues. This is the most important start for clearing the Arab atmosphere and beginning a new chapter in joint Arab action following a period of tests, which confirmed to us that people who differ among themselves will all be losers, and there will be no real winner among them.

Proceeding from this, the State of Bahrain, in this distinguished pan-Arab gathering, calls on all brothers to improve their bilateral relations within a comprehensive pan-Arab framework. This will pave the way for discussing the settlement of the outstanding issues between the fraternal neighboring states within a regional framework for each Arab region away from foreign influence. This is the way to restore the aspired Arab solidarity and activate joint Arab action.

In conclusion, I thank you, brothers, and I pray to Almighty God to grant us success in serving our Arab nation and achieving the glory and strength we aspire for.

Inter-Arab: Jordan's King Husayn Speaks at Cairo Summit Closed Session

JN2206195096 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1744 GMT 22 Jun 96

["Text" of speech by King Husayn of Jordan to the closed Arab summit session in Cairo on 22 June—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, dear brothers: I extend an Arab greeting to you all. With God's help, this meeting will be a good and successful one on the land of beloved Egypt—a meeting which takes place at the invitation of its president and the leader of its march, brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, may God protect him.

Under these circumstances, which require, as he mentioned in his generous invitation, holding summit meetings to place all issues on the negotiating table in a brotherly, cordial, and frank spirit and at which discussions take place objectively and out of a true desire to reach a unified vision and similar views in order to enable the Arab will to protect Arab rights.

Proceeding from this principle and this spirit, brothers, we responded to the call, as usual, hoping that our meeting will succeed in facing up to the level of our responsibilities to carry out our duties toward our nation and peoples and their future generations.

Regarding Egypt, we can say it is in the Arab heart and conscience as a vanguard of sacrifice and struggle, which has offered the blood of its sons, the will of its people, its prosperity, security, and stability in order to embody the meanings of leadership and pioneering role in our nation. It was also at the forefront on the battlefields, as it was the spearhead on the path of peace.

Brothers: We have said that although our Arab situation is relatively better than it was in the past, the features of this situation, however, are still branded with frustration and dominated by the fait accompli. We are seeking to move to a bold, objective, and realistic situation to ask ourselves and others for an accounting in light of the same criteria, learn lessons from crises and ordeals, develop our capability of quiet analysis and deeper understanding, and acknowledge mistakes and shortcomings and the failure of many ideas and slogans. We ignore facts and the requirements of the future and defend what deserves criticism and we have no might except against one another. This aroused doubts and fears, and some sides replaced brotherly dialogue with exporting sinful attempts and destroying the minimum hope for restoring true Arab solidarity based on the firm foundations of good intention, pure conduct, and clear conscience.

Jordan, since its birth, has devoted itself to the welfare of this nation by either protecting its land and interests or defending its causes. It was, it is, and it will be honestly calling, with God's help, for building the bridges of Arab confidence and solidarity. This is what Jordan has always done because its honest call for Arab solidarity comes from its conscience and that of its people; reflects its character and conscience; represents its concern about this nation; and expresses its message and its genuine pan-Arab principles.

Our experience has taught us that slogans cannot replace deeds, and that deceptive rhetoric does not lay a strong foundation for confidence and sound solidarity. Solidarity must not be a seasonal demand, when appealing for it serves one party to the exclusion of another. We say that it is the right of any Arab state to seek protection through an Arab stand. However, we deny any Arab state the right to protect forces of evil and terrorism, which seek to achieve their objectives by using the cloak of religion at times and that of ideology at other times. If we want strong Arab solidarity, in word and deed, then we should remember the courageous and responsible initiative by the Egyptian president and leader when the Sharm al-Shaykh summit was convened. The summit addressed the peace process and the question of terrorism. It stressed the need to condemn and fight terrorism, irrespective of its source, victims, and alleged objectives. This is because terrorism eventually destroys both the aggressor and the victim. We should especially resist the phenomenon of

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terrorism across borders, by condemning it and pursuing and eliminating the pockets of terrorism, wherever their dens, whatever their objectives, and regardless of who their planners and victims are.

Brothers: The Arab individual, who has paid a heavy price as a result of divisions and conflicts among the Arabs, expects this summit to set up a mechanism to curb border conflicts and disputes, eliminate their causes, and not allow them to aggravate and grow. The wise method followed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Yemeni Republic, and the State of Qatar is an example to be followed. We hope that this approach will settle all border disputes among our countries in the same spirit of responsibility, realism, and Arab and Islamic brotherhood. Today, the Arab nation is in dire need of a clear vision and a specific objective. It is wise to call a spade a spade. Hence, our talk about terrorism and violence — which contradict peace and stability — and our call that peace should be the objective and building on it should be the slogan of the march.

Our Arab peoples, who suffered from estrangement and internecine fighting and were deprived of peace and security for long and dark decades, deserve from us, the leaders, to fear God, renounce differences, and work together in good faith. We should demonstrate selflessness, let bygones be bygones, rise above the wounds, and forgive each other for the good of our nation and its generations. This will ensure a better future and dignified place for us among the nations in a world that is moving fast, that does not wait for reluctant people, and that has no place or role for skeptics.

We acknowledge with appreciation and gratitude the leadership and pioneering role of the largest sister, great Egypt, in following the path of peace. This stemmed from the farsightedness through which Egypt tested Israel's desire for peace. The test succeeded, and the desire for peace was entrenched despite the challenges and dangers. The most serious of these challenges was the invasion of Lebanon and the siege of Beirut in 1982.

The effective weapon to reply to this danger and this challenge was the peace which Egypt achieved with Israel. It was not any other weapon, whether in the states surrounding Israel or on Lebanese territory.

We understand that peace has two major dimensions: The first is the peace process within the framework of negotiations, the exchange of proposals and ideas, and then negotiating on them again and so on. The second dimension is the arrival at a real peace in terms of stability, construction, development, and prosperity. This necessarily means that we reject the perpetuation and continuation of the peace process if it means that negotiations, in themselves, are the objective and the goal which is designed to achieve purposes that are away from the objectives of peace.

Brothers: We chose peace as a strategic option. Since the beginning, all have realized that negotiations will not be easy but will be painstaking and complicated. However, the Madrid conference was the only initiative among tens of initiatives, and it was destined to achieve progress after the 1967 war and the Rogers initiative. Hence the adherence to the peace process—which emanated from Madrid—and the concern for its success and continued progress.

We became more convinced that the peace process is the only available option that can hold fast. We here mean the preservation of what was built; namely, what was achieved, as well as its consolidation, entrenchment, and continuation. We do not mean the return, once again, to the first starting point in Madrid. We mean proceeding from the point we reached. We also mean adherence to peace itself and to its substance and content and not to the form, objective, or means.

We are becoming more certain that the Palestine question is the essence of the conflict, and that peace cannot be comprehensive without resolving this question. Peace cannot be just without securing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights on their national soil under their legitimate leadership which was elected by a free and direct election.

Moreover, this peace should include Syria's regaining of its right to its territory which was occupied in June 1967—as was stipulated in Security Council Resolution 242—as well as Lebanon's regaining of its sovereignty and its right to its territory, and keeping Lebanon—as it was before—a beacon of civilization and also an independent, sovereign country on the basis of Security Council Resolution 425.

Brothers: The recent developments in the region should not lead to panic and horror, which reflects fragile positions. We are duty-bound to emphasize what was stressed in the Arab positions in all the recent meetings. These positions call for adherence to the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace as a strategic option. It is impermissible to go back on this option or abandon what was achieved. In this endeavor and through a collective will, we should together expand the areas of convergence, so we will be an influential power. We must be an influential power or we will be nothing at all. We should also enhance our positions and policies individually and collectively, and we should keep our economic relations away from our political differences.

We reiterate the call we made at the Amman summit regarding the need to adopt working programs to cope

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with the size of Arab resources, and to use the best rules and formulas in order to exploit Arab resources and energies in the interest of the entire Arab nation in an economic unity which removes obstacles from the way of trade among the Arab states.

Our Arab League is for all Arabs. It is called upon to uphold its message to unite the Arabs in the service of and in harmony with the ties of true brotherhood among them. The League is us and it is strong by the power, farsightedness, good intentions, and clear vision we grant to it.

This summit is a summit to test intentions and wills, which we have no doubt will realize the extent of the challenge. We cannot but have sincere and faithful wills which build confidence and lay the sound bases for mutual respect and for protecting the brother by his brother so that we will not say protecting the brother from his brother, and in order to work together as one hand, and to exploit our efforts and resources in one great effort which restores respect to this nation, and saves joint Arab action and reinforces it in its various fields so that we can prove to the others and to the whole world that we mean what we say when we say that peace is our strategic option, and that we support each other to fulfill our obligations toward this option in order to achieve the noble objective which restores rights to their owners and reinforces security and stability in the region within the framework of a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace.

Brothers: Fraternal Iraq's unity and territorial integrity, and safeguarding them is a duty which should be performed and taken care of. We are also dutybound to work together to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people and to enable them to restore their natural position in their Arab environment within the framework of the Arab and international legitimacy. We also announce our full support for the Arab stand toward the issues related to the islands of fraternal United Arab Emirates and the republic of Yemen, and for resolving these issues through negotiations and peaceful means.

We also strongly support sisterly Bahrain's security, stability, and independence and the efforts made by the elected Algerian leadership to achieve national security and responsible democracy.

We reaffirm that provocations, terrorism, and interference in others' affairs will produce a reaction that may lead to dangers, and that the policy of employing terrorism in all directions will only produce attacks on all sides. While we place emphasis on building relations among ourselves and with others to strengthen ourselves, we stress that relations must be governed by mutual respect, committed to noninterference, based on good neighborliness, and characterized by the good manners which brings people closer and not divide them, which protect and not squander, which build and not set fire, and which hold dialogue through words and not through bullets and explosives. Terrorism is denounced, regardless of its form. There is no such thing as acceptable and unacceptable terrorism, or legitimate and illegitimate terrorism.

Finally, brothers, let us enter this new phase which requires foresightedness and wisdom. Let us work sincerely and seriously to win each others' confidence and the confidence of the others within the context of the sure keenness to achieve solidarity and strengthen dialogue and contacts, with firm and flexible steps, to achieve what we should be, and not what we are now, and to achieve peace, which we seek to achieve among ourselves, just as we seek to achieve with others.

Our Lord, they say, let not our hearts deviate now after thou hast guided us, but grant us mercy from thine own presence; for thou art the grantor of bounties without measure. [Koranic verse] God, your name means peace and you are the source of peace, blessed be Your name, full of majesty, bounty, and honor. [Islamic prayer] And the close of their prayer will be: Praise be to God, the cherisher and the sustainer of the worlds. [Koranic verse]

God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Inter-Arab: Lebanon's al-Hirawi Addresses Arab Summit

NC2206130296 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1050 GMT 22 Jun 96

[Speech by Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi to the closed Arab summit session in Cairo on 22 June—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Your Majesties, Excellences, and Highnesses; Your Excellencies Delegation Heads; the Arab League Secretary General: We come to you today carrying from Lebanon the call of faithfulness to the martyrs and to the responsibility of working for the future. We come to you, carrying from Qana the voice of Arab conscience. We come to say: Some of us believe that Arabism is for him alone, but all Arabism is threatened with domestic hardship, border tension, or storms of extremism. Let us be frank: We do not want this to be the summit of unifying ranks; we want it to be the summit of decision. This summit stands at a crossroads. Our countries must not remain a laboratory for emotions, for the political and economic interests of the region or the world, or for election developments.

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Let us prove wrong those who still believe that disagreements among us are stronger than agreements and unity. The Arab land, with all its people and capabilities, is more than just interests viewed by others from the perspective of their own security, from the perspective of oil and its strategic and vital importance, or from any other perspective not based on entrenching an effective Arab role in this age.

The movement of events from one Arab country to another; the growing immigration — especially of Arab capital and brains — to Europe, the United States, and elsewhere; and the tendencies of religious, racist, or ideological extremism and fanaticism are all factors of exhaustion and depletion. Why should we let similar incidents draw us into paying a price repeatedly? We should not remain preoccupied with fending off the collapse; we should move toward construction and development, especially as we seek a just and comprehensive peace.

Brothers, we do not want to close the door on peace with Israel. But we do not accept that the principles of peace, on the basis of which the Madrid conference was launched and many long negotiating sessions were held, be changed. Israel, through its prime minister, is inviting us to unconditional negotiations. And we, allow me, invite it to a complete peace. Respect for international legitimacy remains the criterion of stability in this region and beyond.

Brothers, let our summit have an objective. Israel must realize that it is a fantasy to believe that a single Arab can enter negotiations with Israel without an objective and without a basis. The objective is clear: regaining the occupied territories. The basis is firm: implementing international resolutions.

It is appropriate for us here to stress the following principles:

1. The Arabs adhere to peace, the principles of which were approved at the Madrid conference. Israel, in return, is required to commit itself to a peace based on these principles.

2. The Arabs adhere to the implementation of the international resolutions and to the principle of land for peace. They are not prepared to accept a new formula to complete the peace process.

3. The Arabs trust the cosponsors of the peace process and call on them to support justice and right, not to support one party, although this party is the oppressor.

Peace, Brothers, is not texts and treaties for signing; it is the victory of justice. This peace cannot survive unless it is comprehensive. Let us demonstrate solidarity to regain our land and rights first. Allow me to be frank here: Normalization with Israel, even if only economic, before peace is completed, did not encourage Israel to take a single step toward a just and comprehensive peace.

Brothers, engagement in peace was and still is a common Arab decision. While we consider the restoration of every inch of the occupied Arab territories a gain, this must not be at the expense of the just and comprehensive peace, about which Lebanon and Syria are concerned.

Dear Brothers, Lebanon is faithful to its brothers. We entered the Madrid conference to underscore Arab solidarity in the peace process, especially the solidarity of the cordon states. Lebanon did not go to Madrid to demand the implementation of Resolution 425. We all came to peace, not to make it our problem, but to find in it a solution to the problems that faced all of us. Lebanon wants its rights as well as every legitimate Arab right. We demand the implementation of international resolutions and the restoration of the occupied territories. We demand withdrawal from south Lebanon, Western al-Biqa', and the Golan. We demand self-determination for the Palestinian brothers and the return of the displaced to their homes. Lebanon rejects resettlement [of Palestinians] out of both Palestinian and Lebanese considerations. We also demand a political solution to the issue of Jerusalem, a solution that safeguards the city's identity and symbol. This is a common Arab right. Another common Arab right is removing the nuclear weapons from our region and declaring the Middle East a zone free from this destructive weapon. Those who want peace do not refrain from joining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and subjecting their facilities to international supervision.

Mr. president: As dangers face us together, we must be together on the path toward an agreement in the process of a fair and comprehensive peace. For this region, the United States has a program, Europe a plan, and Israel a scheme. I earnestly ask you, what is the Arab plan? If a fair and comprehensive peace does not triumph, no one in this region will be safe from an earthquake. If we proceed to a fair and comprehensive peace while lacking in the resources to promote and safeguard this peace, the challenges will be stronger. It is high time, dear brothers, that we established a common Arab market and a common Arab bank for development, particularly because numerous plans are being devised for the region—the talk about Middle Eastern market and Middle East bank. It is also high time that we promoted the Arab League to enable it to play its role at this crucial stage. This is the way to

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support the process of a fair and comprehensive peace and build a glorious Arab renaissance.

Mr. president, your majesties, excellencies, highnesses, and Arab League Secretary General: The Arab cause is not confined to south Lebanon and the Golan. South Lebanon, western al-Biqa', and the Golan, constitute the current and declared front. A victory for rights in these issues is a victory for our identity, economy, security, and peace. Failure in these issues would be a failure for the entire peace process. Lebanon, which has suffered for long from regional and international conflicts, will not pay a price for the regional and international interests in the peace process in the Middle East. Lebanon is awaiting its brothren to back its march for liberation and reconstruction in fulfillment of pledges.

Your Excellency President Mubarak: Your bilateral and multi-sided meetings with Arab leaders led to this summit in Egypt, the land of the Nile. On behalf of Lebanon, I thank you and the Egyptian government for hosting this summit so that we may, with God's help, reach a peace that we all desire, but a fair and daring peace. Thank you. [applause]

Inter-Arab: Sudan's al-Bashir Addresses Arab Summit

NC2306080096 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)—Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir delivered the following speech at the Arab summit closed session last night:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God through whose grace good deeds are done. Prayer and peace be on God's messenger. "Verily, this brotherhood of yours is a single brotherhood, and I am your lord and cherisher: therefore serve me (and no other)." [Koranic verse]

Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses, and Secretary General of the Arab League, may peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

We meet today at the generous invitation of generous leaders in Egypt. We thank Egypt's leader, the honorable brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, for his kind invitation and generous hospitality. Egypt will remain for the Arabs and it will have a memorable role in leading the nation; this is a true prophecy and an undeniable promise.

We meet today to fulfill the hopes of millions of the Arab nation who want the Arab leaders to be frank, to reconcile, to help each other, and agree on a sound position to regain the Arabs' right and achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace. The nation's peace and harmony are important means by which it faces its adversaries as a single, close rank without relinquishing right and wavering over dignity and glory, the Arabs' long-possessed heritage.

Dear brothers, nations may face their adversaries with weapons and they may handle them with peace. If there is agreement on a strategy for peace, putting an end to war in this region and restoring lost stability, such a peace must rely on the principle of returning rights to their claimant and returning the land to its owner and on the aggressor abandoning his racist plans and settlement goals. This is the only way to a lasting peace, because its foundation relies heavily on the sense of justice and human dignity.

Therefore, supporting the peace process requires compliance with Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 calling for a complete withdrawal from occupied Arab land in Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon and from holy Jerusalem. It also requires the assertion of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish a free, independent state.

Moreover, the spirit of just peace and dignified coexistence requires securing the Arabs' right against racism and the violation of human rights. It also entails protecting Arab territories from expropriation and usurpation so that these territories will not serve as a home for migrant settlers from all over the world.

Dear brothers, the Arab countries' commitment to a peaceful solution in the framework of international legitimacy requires a similarly clear commitment from the Israeli side.

The principle of peace for peace is not acceptable nor is it logical unless rights and grievances are settled relying on the principle of peace for land, otherwise it would be utter surrender.

The Arab countries must make this clear to the international community and remind the world of its moral responsibility to protect Arabs human rights, halt settlement building, and repatriate the refugees in line with the relevant UN resolutions.

In following up the sensitive developments in the region, the Arab leaders are required to agree at this meeting on a mechanism to monitor these developments and to hold consultations and coordinate stances to devise a unified Arab position. Chairmanship of such a mechanism should be given to the Arab summit chairman and this mechanism should be endorsed as part of a means for joint Arab action.

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Dear brothers, any settlement that is not founded on justice will not last long, and any settlement that is not associated with the elimination of weapons of mass destruction by all the sides is merely a temporary truce involving threats of war and affliction. Every strategy to build peace in the region must augment the Arab order, unify its rank, bridge the gaps of this order, and develop its forces on every level. Therefore, we must chart a strategy parallel to the peace strategy with the aim of promoting joint Arab action on the basis of the principles of the Arab order. These principles call for respect for countries' sovereignty, nonintervention in others' domestic affairs, the settlement of disputes by peaceful means and in a friendly manner, and the coordination of stances to safeguard Arab rights and Arab national security.

At their historic meeting today, 50 years after their first meeting here in Egypt, the Arab leaders are urged to strengthen the mechanisms of unity and solidarity, especially the Arab League. The Arab leaders are called upon to review and augment the Arab League charter to beef up ties of cooperation and unity. The Arab leaders are also urged to officially endorse the Arab summit mechanism in the Charter and to set up other mechanisms to contain disputes and carry out good offices to solve problems between the Arab countries and their close neighbors.

Sudan, located on the Arab nation's southern border, fully comprehends these principles and their importance. Sudan is standing fast in defense of its territorial integrity and the identity of its people against plots aimed at disintegrating it and dismembering its unity through an imposed war in its south. We are trying, internally and externally, to resolve this war through dialogue and peace. We expect the Arab nation to support our efforts in every stance and at every meeting.

Dear brothers, on this occasion we are pleased to say that the repeated calls for reconciliation and solidarity have been heeded. We must try not to allow ourselves to be surrounded, squander our strength, or disintegrate our ranks. We undertake to abide by any resolutions or recommendations that will be issued by this conference to overcome differences and disputes through constructive dialogue and solid bases for understanding and cooperation on every level.

If the spirit of peace prevails today, brothers ought to have faith in and give advice to their neighbors near and far. We must not allow ourselves to be surrounded, our forces to be exhausted, or our ranks to be dispersed. This is because the Arabs are one body—if one organ suffers the remaining organs suffer too.

Hence, we call for augmenting our ranks and unifying our efforts to lift the siege imposed on the Arab people of Iraq and Libya, to overcome the vestiges of division, and to turn the page on the past for the sake of our unity. We also call for unity in the face of disputes and pressures to which our nation is subjected.

Dear brothers, we meet here today at the noble invitation of great leaders, who recently met in steadfast Damascus. Calls for Arab solidarity came before and after the Damascus meeting. We are taking big steps toward unifying the strategic concept and promoting the Arab strength and capability so that the Arabs can be strong on their land, victorious in their rights, and dignified in their creed.

And God hath full power and control over his affairs; but most among mankind know it not. [Koranic verse]

May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Inter-Arab: Tunisian President Addresses Cairo Summit

NC2206111196 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0916 GMT 22 Jun 96

[Speech by Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali at the Cairo summit in the International Conference Center, Madinat al-Nasr—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Majesties, Excellences, and Highnesses, the Arab League Secretary General, Ladies, and Gentlemen: I am pleased to express my pleasure at this gathering on fraternal Egypt's soil and to convey to the honorable audience the Tunisian people's greetings. I express my hope that this occasion will be a prelude to a new phase of joint Arab action.

I also thank His Excellency President Husni Mubarak for his generous invitation to this summit. Through him, I extend sincere appreciation to the fraternal Egyptian people for their generous hospitability.

Mr. President, the important issues submitted to us require us to scrupulously examine our future moves concerning the challenges facing our region and to closely coordinate positions on the papers concerning these issues.

The cause of peace and a fair and durable resolution of the Middle East conflict are at the top of our list of priorities in light of their significant impact on our peoples and on their fate and in light of their role in preserving stability and security and enhancing cooperation in the region and beyond.

Tunisia stood on the side of the fraternal Palestinian people in every stage of their struggle and did its utmost

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to support them to secure their rights and establish their independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. We contributed, along with our brothers, to the talks that prepared the launch of the peace process in its various phases in line with the nature of the issues raised. In doing so, we were sincere in our consultations and were convinced that the battle for peace had delicate aspects and involved great challenges.

It was our belief that the security and progress of the region's nations could not be realized without a comprehensive peace preserving every party's rights and future. In light of the firm principle in all our positions and moves we employed our assistance to support Arab stances on the bilateral and multilateral tracks. We believe that integration and coordination among them is the safest way to a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace.

Since the talks opened in very complicated and extremely sensitive circumstances, assessments varied and some of the peace tracks progressed but others did not. However, the support the peace talks received from the international community and the role played by the two peace cosponsors in advancing it, and the agreements concluded enabled the parties to achieve some encouraging progress, primarily the establishment of the Palestinian Authority and the election of the Palestinian National Council for the first time. This represents a symbol and foundation of sovereignty. While we cannot deny the importance of these results, they remain insufficient because there is a need to continue progress on the Palestinian track and establish a comprehensive peace by making progress on the other tracks.

These developments caused a transformation in attitude toward establishing ties with Israel. The majority of the Arabs do not differ over this issue even though our assessements vary over how far the Arabs must go. Accordingly, steps were taken to normalize relations with the state of Israel to prompt it to follow the path of peace. Tunisia has been committed to a firm line in this respect linking every step toward normalization of relations with progress in negotiations on all tracks and with positive results achieved in supporting the Arab rights and enabling Syria and Lebanon to recover their land. We will remain committed to this line with the same firmness and vigilance.

Your excellency: The nature of the peace talks and the limited results achieved and the international circumstances surrounding it helped signs of peace and security and cooperation to loom on the horizon. These particular circumstances prompt us to emphasize our support for the peace process, our determination to continue it, and our readiness to continue to propel it on all levels on the basis of the terms of reference which launched it—the international legitimacy, the UN Security Council resolution, and honoring the land-for-peace principle and implementing the Oslo, Washington, and Cairo agreements and all that was signed between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian National Authority.

We believe that the region has wagered on what is better and chosen what is more worthwhile and has begun to lay the foundations of an era of peace, security, stability, and cooperation. Miscalculations must not allow these achievements to suffer a setback or take the wrong road. Israel nowadays shoulders a special responsibility toward perpetuating these principles and implementing these agreements. The statements made during the election campaign and the new Israeli government work program must not infringe on the state's obligations. Israel is required to continue on this path to achieve peace and security for all parties. Pending future developments, we reassert that our concern for peace is as strong as our concern for the Arab rights. We have great confidence that the international community which supports this process, particularly the cosponsors of the peace process—the United States and the Russian Federation—will shoulder their responsibility to advance the peace process and preempt any possibilities of a setback, which will only result in the loss of credibilty in the process, the return of tension and confrontation, and escalation of violence, extremism, and terrorism. We must safeguard the region from these possibilities with determination and with those who are capable of defending their rights without resorting to verbal escalation and one-upmanship, which will leave no room for wise views. We believe that the rewards of peace in the world are bigger and more durable.

Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses, Ladies, and Gentlemen, we would have been happier if all the right conditions, including the required preparations and comprehensive consultations, had existed for this meeting, which comes after a long absence to leave behind us all the negative legacies, achieve the needed qualitative transformation of our working methods, and tackle the issues at hand with the necessary effectiveness. But we consider this meeting a special opportunity to discuss the conditions in our region with care and patience and agree on clearly defined methods to realize our ambitions.

The duty of fraternity and solidarity requires us to reassess inter-Arab ties and reemphasize the principles on which they rest, including respect for the sovereignty of countries, nonintervention in their domestic affairs, adherence to the notion of good neighborliness, and solving disagreements by political means.

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We also believe that to strengthen the process of regional peace and stability there must be more intensive efforts to end the fraternal Iraqi people's hardship as a result of the embargo imposed on them. We believe that efforts are also necessary to settle the dispute between the Libyan Jamahiriyah and some Western countries to remove the effects of the embargo on the fraternal Libyan people and safeguard our region from the hazards of tension and conflicts.

We need to strengthen coordination among our countries and implement programs to boost collective Arab action. On this occasion I wish to reiterate my proposal to formulate a new sophisticated framework for the ties that bind us and our methods of cooperation. This will serve our countries' interests and safeguard their future in a rapidly changing world.

It has become necessary to undertake a careful reassessment of collective Arab action and reorganize its structures, both those that are mentioned in the Arab League Charter and some new structures. Among these, we have proposed to the Arab League Council to create a mechanism to handle disputes peacefully, undertake a very careful study of the circumstances surrounding pan-Arab security, and then submit this issue for continuous discussions by the foreign ministers and the Arab League General Secretariat to formulate new working methods concerning it.

Mr. President, we came to this summit with the hope of contributing to an endeavor that we have always considered a priority. We believe that when our countries rally together, they can surmount the difficulties they face. Tunisia, known for its realism, sobriety, earnestness, and commitment to our nation's causes, will do its utmost to back Arab stances and serve our nation's interests in a way that safeguards its dignity and lofty stature. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be with you. [applause]

Inter-Arab: Mubarak Addresses Summit's Closing Session

NC2306115596 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1055 GMT 23 Jun 96

[Speech by Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at the closing session of the Arab summit in Cairo—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses; the Arab League Secretary General; Delegation Members: Allow me to express my deep appreciation of your participation in this historic summit, which we hope will bring good to all the peoples of our glorious nation and mark the beginning of a new method of action allowing us to make the best use of our energies to serve higher Arab objectives, protect our pan-Arab security, defend our strategic interests, and deepen cooperation and solidarity among our peoples in every area. This will fulfill our nation's hopes for a better future providing further security, stability, and prosperity, and helping the coming Arab generations to use their creative capabilities to build glory, achieve progress, and make peace.

Throughout their long history our peoples have proved a deep belief in peace, sincere commitment to the principles of global legitimacy and the rule of law, and adherence to a sublime human view toward coexistence and reconciliation among peoples, irrespective of different ideologies and ethnic origins. This is because our peoples fully realize everyone faces almost the same challenges and certainly the same fate.

From this premise, we urge non-Arab peoples in the region to deal with us in the same way and spirit — by showing equality among people, a balance between peoples' rights and commitments, respect for others' will and dignity, refraining from interference in others' internal affairs, and avoiding alliances and axes that breed animosity and polarization and create tension instead of seeking to build constructive relations based on good neighborliness and cooperation to achieve common interests away from the use of force or threat to use it. This will only lead to further suffering and destruction. We fear no threat from anyone, we respond only to the dictates of right and justice, and we make peace only with those who want to make peace with us.

In the same context comes our demand on Israel to cooperate with us to complete the circle of the comprehensive and just peace, achieve a balanced security according to the framework established and endorsed in the conference that laid the foundation stone for the peace process, and to begin implementing what has been agreed upon and to which the parties have committed themselves, to resume talks with complete seriousness and good intentions to realize the remaining goals without procrastination or delay and without imposing preconditions, to avoid placing obstacles before peace, and, particularly, to refrain from any settlement activity in the occupied Arab territory. Such settlement activity, which runs contrary to the rule of law and to the resolutions of the world community, can threaten the very basis of the peace process and leave dark shadows over the future.

Dear brothers, Egypt was honored by your coming here and holding this summit on its soil. I personally had the pleasure of meeting you and working with you, as always, in the spirit of a unified family, the spirit of frankness, cordiality, and mutual confidence, where each one of us understands the situations and positions of

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others, and with all of us willing to achieve everything good for our unified nation, to fend off harm and danger to our countries and peoples, and to enable them to make further achievements, conclude fruitful work, and make more of a contribution to the formulation of the new world society at this delicate stage for mankind.

What consolidates our hope for common Arab action is that this summit of ours gave special attention to following up what we have accomplished, building on it, and adding to it to meet the aspirations of our peoples, who looked to this summit with much hope and great expectation. We cannot but be up to our nation's expectations and up to the challenge. May God grant us success and lead us on the virtuous path. Peace be upon you.

Inter-Arab: 'Final Communique' Issued by Arab Summit

NC2306135096 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1205 GMT 23 Jun 96

[Text of "Final Communique" issued by the Arab Summit Conference in Cairo on 23 June; read by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In response to the kind invitation of His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, their majesties the kings, their excellencies the presidents, and their highnesses the amirs of the Arab countries held a summit conference in Cairo from 5 to 7 Safar 1417 Hegira, corresponding to 21 to 23 June 1996.

The Arab leaders expressed their great appreciation of the contents of the opening address delivered by Summit Conference Chairman His Excellency President Mubarak, and decided to consider his address one of the official documents of the conference.

In response to the hopes and aspirations of the Arab nation, out of faith in its common destiny, in view of the ties of Arab brotherhood, and in light of the delicate phase currently facing the Middle East peace process, the Arab leaders met to discuss the new situation in the region, revive joint Arab action, intensify Arab coordination and cooperation, motivate the nation and marshal its ranks, build Arab solidarity as a way to achieve the principles and goals of joint Arab action, employ the Arab nation's resources to protect its interests and restore its usurped rights, and consolidate efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Adhering to their national responsibility, the Arab leaders assert that the establishment of a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East requires Israel's complete withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian territories, including Arab Jerusalem, and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination and to establish an independent state with Arab Jerusalem as its capital. This is because the Palestinian issue is the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Arab leaders also call for Israel's complete withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights to the 4 June 1967 line and for Israel's full and unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon and the western al-Biqa' to the internationally recognized borders, in implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the principle of land for peace. On these bases, they call for the resumption of talks on all tracks.

The Arab countries' commitment to continue the peace process to achieve a just and comprehensive peace under the aegis of international legitimacy is a goal and a strategic option. This commitment requires similar serious and unequivocal commitment on the part of Israel, which must work to complete the peace process in a way that will restore the rights and occupied territories and ensure balanced and equal security for all the states of the region, in accordance with the principles agreed upon at the Madrid conference, especially the land-for-peace principles, and the assurances given to the parties.

The Arab leaders affirm that any violation [ikhlal] by Israel of these principles and bases on which the peace process is founded, any retraction on the commitments, pledges, and agreements reached within the framework of this process, or any vacillation in implementing them will set back the peace process and will entail dangers and consequences that will plunge the region back into a spiral of tension and will compel all the Arab countries to reconsider the steps they have taken toward Israel within the framework of the peace process. The Israeli Government alone will by fully responsible for these consequences.

The Arab leaders stress their adherence to the UN resolutions, which do not accept or recognize any situation resulting from Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories. They consider this settlement activity illegal, unlawful, and nonbinding. They consider the building of settlements and bringing settlers to them a violation of the Geneva Conventions and the Madrid framework and an obstruction of the peace process. They call for a halt to all settlement activity in the occupied Syrian Golan heights and the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly Jerusalem, and for the dismantling of these settlements. They also reject any change to the character and legal status of Arab Jerusalem. They emphasize that a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved unless

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a solution is found for the issue of Jerusalem and for the problem of Palestinian refugees, who have the right to return in accordance with international legitimacy and the UN resolutions.

In light of this, and in order to help the peace process on the Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian tracks succeed, the Arab leaders call on the cosponsors of the peace process, the European Union, Japan, the nonaligned states, the other concerned countries, the United Nations, and other international organizations and institutions, to work to ensure that Israel does not upset the bases of the peace process and fulfills its commitments regarding both the interim-stage agreements and the issues of the final-status negotiations because the Palestine question is the essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict. They also call for continued provision of the necessary political and economic support for the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Authority. In this respect, the leaders stress the need for ending the Israeli blockade against the Palestinian people.

The Arab leaders emphasize their support for Lebanon against the continuing Israeli aggressions against that country's territory, people, and sovereignty, and they urge the world community to ensure an immediate and unconditional end to these aggressions, to halt the occupation, and to hold Israel responsible for compensating Lebanon for all its losses.

The Arab leaders stress the need for Israel to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and to subject all their nuclear facilities to the inspection regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency. They also renew their call for establishing a zone free from weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, in the Middle East. This should include all states of the region, including Israel. They stress their determination to take the necessary steps to protect the region from the dangers of these weapons and to spare it an arms race that would increase tension and waste the region's resources and energies. The Arab leaders emphasize that the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace is the real guarantee for the security of all states of the Middle East.

Believing in the importance of strengthening comprehensive pan-Arab security in the face of challenges to the Arab countries' sovereignty, territorial integrity, and natural resources; and due to the fact that there is a close link between pan-Arab security in its comprehensive sense as an integrated whole and the national security of every individual Arab country, the Arab leaders stress their determination to build Arab solidarity. This is the right way to achieve the objectives of common Arab action based on respect for the foundations of the Arab order, foremost of which is adherence to the principles of respect for the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of every state and its sovereignty over its natural and economic resources; commitment to the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of any state; settlement of bilateral problems among the Arab countries through peaceful means and in accordance with the principles of the international law; and respect for the principles and charters of the United Nations and the Arab League and the agreements concluded within their frameworks. They also stress that guaranteeing pan-Arab security in its fullest sense is the best way to preserve the entity of the Arab nation and safeguard its interests.

Out of the common interests that bind Arab countries, and noting that international economic developments dictate the formation of blocs and larger entities, the Arab leaders emphasize that for the Arab countries to be able to strengthen their international role and contributions, they need to achieve Arab development and activate the role of common Arab economic institutions and implement their decisions. Therefore, the leaders instructed the Economic and Social Council and the Arab League Council to draft and implement integrated economic and social strategies and working plans that will enable the Arab nation to serve its higher economic interests and deal on an equal footing with other partners in the existing world economic order.

Out of their concern to bolster the role of the Arab League, the Arab Leaders confirm their determination to enhance its status, reinvigorate its role, and remain committed to its Charter and resolutions in order to safeguard the Arab nation's supreme interests. In this connection, they affirm the need to meet their financial commitments to it.

After reviewing various Arab and regional issues, the Arab leaders voice solidarity with the fraternal State of Bahrain and proclaim their full backing for the measures that it is taking to consolidate its security and stability. They strongly denounce all intervention in its internal affairs and declare that they stand behind it against any attempt by any party whatsoever to threaten it. They call on Iran to respect Bahrain's sovereignty, in the context of mutual respect and good neighborliness, by preventing any acts of sabotage against the State of Bahrain, with the aim of regional security and stability.

The Arab leaders emphasize the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] over its three islands—Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa. They proclaim their backing for all the peaceful means and measures that the UAE adopts to regain sovereignty over these islands. They call on Iran to terminate its

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occupation of the three islands, refrain from the policy of imposing faits accomplis on them by force, and pursue peaceful means to solve the dispute over the islands in accordance with the rules and principles of international law. This should include Iran's agreement to refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice. The Arab leaders instruct the Arab League secretary general to follow up the issue of the Iranian occupation of the UAE islands and submit a report on it to the next Arab summit.

The Arab leaders voice hopes that traditional Arab-Turkish ties and mutual interests will continue. In this context, they express concern over the Turkish-Israeli military agreement and call on Turkey to reconsider this agreement in a way that precludes any encroachment on the Arab countries' security.

The Arab leaders stress their adherence to the necessity of preserving Iraq's unity and declare their opposition to any policies or measures that might adversely affect its territorial integrity, borders, and national unity. They urge the Iraqi Government to commit itself to refraining from any hostile policies that could provoke its Arab neighbors and ask it to complete the implementation of all relevant UN Security Council resolutions, foremost of these being the adoption of all the necessary measures to release all prisoners and detainees from Kuwait and other countries, restore all seized property, and adhere to the mechanism of reparations. They regard this as the right way to lift the sanctions imposed on Iraq and create the necessary circumstances for it to regain its role in the Arab regional order.

The Arab leaders welcome the agreement reached by Iraq and the United Nations to implement UN Security Council Resolution 986 as a positive step toward easing the hardships of the fraternal Iraqi people, for which the Iraqi Government is responsible. They urge the prompt implementation of this resolution.

The Arab leaders welcome the Yemeni and Eritrean Governments' signing of a declaration of principles to refer the conflict between them to international arbitration and restore peaceful relations between them in line with their goodneighborly ties and mutual interests. This would have positive effects on the regularity and stability of international maritime interests in the Red Sea.

The leaders voice their extreme concern over the human and property losses that have afflicted the Libyan Arab people as a result of the coercive measures imposed on them in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 748 and 883. They believe that the lack of response to the good offices and efforts made by the Libyan Jamahiriyah, the Arab League, the OAU, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Organization of the Islamic Conference have enormously delayed a solution to the crisis and doubled the Libyan Arab people's hardship.

The leaders believe that the Arab League's proposal to conduct a neutral and fair trial of the two suspects before Scottish judges, in accordance with Scottish law, in The Hague and providing sufficient guarantees for the two suspects—a proposal that has met with broad international support—is an appropriate and practical solution that will end the crisis. For this reason, they call on the three concerned Western countries to adopt a positive attitude to this proposal in order to end the crisis and alleviate the Libyan Arab people's hardship, which has been prolonged unjustifiably.

The leaders demand also the lifting of the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, since their continuation is bound to lead Arab countries to consider possible ways to spare the Libyan people more harm.

The Arab leaders voice concern regarding the persistence of the deteriorating situation in Somalia and call on the leaders of the Somali factions to shoulder their responsibilities for attaining national reconciliation, to renounce their disagreements, and try to form a national authority that represents the various segments of the Somali people.

Denouncing attempts to stick the label of terrorism on the lawful national resistance, the Arab leaders condemn all forms of terrorist and sabotage actions and the creation of disorderly conditions in some countries, including Arab states, with the aim of undermining their security and stability. They declare their support for these countries and for efforts to hold an international conference to tackle the various aspects of the global phenomenon of terrorism. In the meantime, they reiterate that they hold on to their inherent right to fight occupation and aggression.

The Arab summit took note of the floods which the fraternal Republic of Yemen has suffered. Expressing their condolences to the fraternal Yemeni people, the Arab leaders reiterate their support and backing for the Republic of Yemen and appeal to the competent international organizations to provide the Republic of Yemen with all forms of support and assistance.

The Arab leaders have agreed to keep up their consultations and meetings to follow up on the implementation of the decisions they have adopted and to cope any exigencies that might face the Arab nation. In this context, and in light of the conditions and requirements of the coming period, the following has been agreed upon:

1. His Excellency President Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, in his capacity as

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the chairman of the present session, shall make the necessary contacts and consultations with the Arab leaders and the Arab League secretary general to follow up on the matter and reach an agreement on the holding of the next summit; and,

2. The Arab foreign ministers are commissioned to hold a meeting to review developments in the peace process prior to the meeting of the Arab League Council slated for September, or whenever necessary.

The leaders express their profound thanks and appreciation to His Excellency President Husni Mubarak and the fraternal people of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the warm hospitality they have been shown and for the fine organization and preparations they have made for the conference. They wish President Husni Mubarak and the fraternal Egyptian people lasting progress and prosperity.

There are two resolutions:

1. The Arab League Economic and Social Council is commissioned to take the necessary measures to step up the establishment of a major Arab free trade zone in accordance with a program and timetable to be agreed upon; and,

2. The leaders agreed in principle to set up an Arab court of justice, draw up an Arab charter of honor for security and cooperation, and establish an Arab League device to protect against, manage, and settle Arab disputes. The foreign ministers have been commissioned to complete the final phrasing of each of the above-mentioned resolutions.

The leaders also decided to refer the Libyan Jamahiriyah's proposal on a League of Arab Unity to the Arab League Council for consideration and referral to the next Arab summit.

Inter-Arab: Egypt's Musa Comments on Summit Deliberations

NC2206144096 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that during the Arab summit's closed session today, the Arab leaders held a general discussion of issues. King Husayn of Jordan, Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, Algerian President Liamine Zeroual, and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi addressed the closed session.

Musa's remarks came in a news conference held after the closed session. He said that the discussions and speeches of the heads of delegations will be resumed during the second closed session at 1900 [1600 GMT] today. He noted that this will be preceded by a meeting of the Arab Ministerial Council to discuss the drafting committee's report on the summit's final statement.

Musa described the discussions held among the Arab leaders as very positive. He noted that the meeting held this morning by President Husni Mubarak, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and Jordan's King Husayn had very good results, just like yesterday's meeting among Presidents Mubarak, al-Asad, and 'Arafat. He explained that the three presidents spoke of peace and general conditions in the Arab world.

Asked if the summit will discuss the Libyan-Western crisis, Musa said that the summit might have enough room left to tackle this issue.

Regarding Iraq's nonparticipation in the summit, Musa said that this issue was discussed during meetings held on the sidelines of the main meeting.

Asked what position the Arabs will adopt if Israel refuses to adhere to the agreements it signed, Musa said that the Arab leaders' discussions and consultations will touch on this issue.

'Amr Musa reported that the contacts held among the Arab leaders led to progress with regard to finding common ground for collective Arab action. He referred to the large number of Arab leaders attending the summit, including 15 presidents and amirs, and the participation of delegations led by less senior officials from the remaining Arab countries.

He said that all issues are being discussed objectively and wisely and that this is a major step toward reviving collective Arab action.

Asked if the summit will discuss the issue of Red Sea security, the foreign minister said that the summit is basically discussing collective Arab action, the peace process, its various developments, and many other issues.

In answer to a question on whether Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has raised the issue of the recognition of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, 'Amr Musa said that President 'Arafat will deliver a speech to the summit this evening.

Musa pointed out that the Jerusalem issue will be mentioned in the summit's final statement. In this connection, he reasserted the Arab position on the peace process, noting that this position is based on the land-for-peace principle, the other basic foundations agreed upon at the Madrid conference, and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

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He declared: When we embarked on this peace and decided to press ahead with it, we did not intend it to be a surrender but an Arab-Israeli peace.

Asked if Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir will meet on the sidelines of the Arab summit, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said preparations for bilateral meetings are now being made.

On the unexpected participation in the summit by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, Musa said that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi contacted President Mubarak before he came to Egypt. He said al-Qadhdhafi's attendance was, therefore, not unexpected, but because time was short, it was not possible to inform the competent UN committee of his travel to Cairo by air.

He added: Al-Qadhdhafi came as a guest of Egypt, and we will take care of things after that.

Asked about the possibility of Israel not respecting the agreements it signed, Musa said: Discussions and consultations [among Arab leaders] deal with this subject. But a comment on such a possibility needs higher policy; this cannot be discussed through the media.

He added: We suppose and expect Israel to do certain things. If it insists [on not doing them], we will handle this at the right time; there is no need for us to discuss this now.

On today's talks between President Husni Mubarak, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and King Husayn of Jordan, Musa said the trilateral meeting was "a good and important step" in efforts to close Arab ranks. He said the summit is expected, required, and meant to raise issues, even contentious ones, to reach understandings on them.

On Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi's letter to Egypt, the foreign minister said: We, naturally, welcome every Israeli inclination toward commitment to the peace process and its bases.

He added: But it is important to point out that the documents and papers which we read on the principles and policy guidelines of the new Israeli Government concerning Jerusalem and the settlements were all "negative", and this gives grave signals.

He said Levi's letter is more reassuring in this regard.

Asked how he expects Israel to react to the Arab summit, Musa said: There is no need for one to expect. The summit was held and we will proceed along the road of peace.

In response to a question on reports that the tripartite meeting between President Mubarak, President al-Asad, and Yasir 'Arafat was negative, Musa denied this, saying that this meeting was one of "the best Arab meetings exactly like today's tripartite meeting between Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad and King Husayn."

Answering a question on the summit statement, whether it will discuss charting a strategy for a balanced peace and what strategy it can discuss regarding events in Lebanon, Musa said that Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi spoke well on this issue at the opening session today. Musa said: I believe that a clause pertinent to this issue will be incorporated in the summit's final communique.

Asked whether this summit is concerned with laying the foundations for a solution of bilateral Arab differences and whether it will lay a foundation for resolving these differences, Musa said: Naturally, the solutions to differences reached during this summit are considered to be the beginning. It is a good start for opening the door to discuss all differences. He stressed in this respect the need to continue these efforts in order to eliminate all Arab differences.

In reply to a question on whether the summit will emerge with specific results on Iraq's return to the Arab fold, Musa said: "I cannot tell you any specifics about any topic, because the summit only began two hours ago. I can, however, tell you that all these issues will be put forward for discussion and during consultations among the heads of delegations.

At the end of the news conference Musa, responding to a question on whether Egypt stipulated that the Khartoum government hand over the defendants in the attempt to assassinate President Mubarak in Addis Ababa in order to improve ties with Sudan, said: "The UN Security Council resolutions on this issue must be implemented."

On reports in the U.S. media yesterday that the U.S. House of Representatives requested imposition of economic sanctions on Egypt on the pretext of importing equipment for Scud missiles from North Korea, Musa said that this issue is outside the scope of the Arab summit conference.

Inter-Arab: Kuwaiti PM—Iraq Should Be Held Responsible for 'Past Deeds'

LD2206193696 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1454 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Jun (KUNA) — Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, said this morning that the strength of the Arab nation resides in its

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cohesion and solidarity "however, he who contributes to its division should bear that responsibility."

During a meeting with the chief editors of the Egyptian press, Shaykh Sa'd rejected the saying that "past deeds should be forgiven" and [said] that the aggressor should be held responsible for the results of his aggression. He also called upon those who are "ready for openness" to confront their stances as regards the Iraqi aggression toward Kuwait in 1990. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question on the reasons which prevented the convening of an Arab summit which would have consolidated Arab solidarity to confront the dangers facing it, the Kuwaiti prime minister said: "We would have liked the meetings to continue as they used to be to consult each other on at least an annual basis and discuss the issues and concerns of the Arab and Islamic nation clearly and frankly and in a spirit of solidarity and understanding which would give it more strength and impregnability".

Shaykh Sa'd further said that "the Iraqi aggression on my country Kuwait was the main reason behind stopping such meetings throughout this period." [passage omitted]

Regarding the measures which Kuwait deems necessary to achieve Arab reconciliation in the light of the lessons learnt from the Iraqi aggression, the Kuwaiti prime minister said: "I shall answer you in all frankness. I have heard what some have been saying about their readiness to be open for the sake of reconciliation. All this is very nice talk. I am not talking out of nothing. Everything was said in 1990 and more precisely at the Arab summit held in Egypt on 9 and 10 August." [Shaykh Sa'd was] pointing at the stances of the countries which had supported Iraq in its aggression on Kuwait in those days. [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti prime minister said in reply to a question on whether or not there was a possibility of him meeting some of the Arab leaders who had supported the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait in 1990: "I do not want to name names here. We have made it clear that as far as Kuwait is concerned, anyone who wants to repent must declare publicly that he is against the Iraqi aggression, and that he is with Kuwait and the measures taken to secure its liberation. Further, he must reiterate that he will condemn any aggression against any Arab country and must call upon Iraq to release the Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti prisoners and hostages." [passage omitted]

In response to another question, Shaykh Sa'd gave his opinion on the way forward to eliminate the legacy of the Iraqi aggression on Arab inter-relations: "Kuwait does not want to create a schism within the Arab nation and we have always urged Arab solidarity."

"Kuwaiti has not changed its principled stance despite the enormous price it paid during the Iraqi aggression," he reiterated.

Replying to a question on whether Kuwait was quite happy with its security and independence despite the fact that Saddam Husayn was still the ruler in Baghdad, Shaykh Sa'd said: "There is no Kuwaiti who will ever trust the Iraqi regime which is still thinking of carrying out further aggression against Kuwait despite its defeat in February 1991." [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti prime minister categorically denied the existence of a dispute over any issue between Kuwaiti officials, stressing: We should take it easy and get to the truth from the source but there is absolutely no truth whatsoever in reports about a quarrel between Kuwaiti officials.

Concerning the position of Kuwait regarding the idea to set up an Arab court to judge inter-Arab disputes, he said: Kuwait was the first to put forward the idea of an Arab Court of Justice and we hope that we will be able to sit as brothers, understanding one another, supporting one another, as well as working for the interests of our states and opening our hearts to tackling any problem that may emerge.

Regarding the development of events following the recent Israeli elections and the forming of a new Israeli Government, Shaykh Sa'd said: We shall not follow any strategy or policy at odds with those laid down at previous Arab summits. There is UN Security Council Resolution No. 338 and other resolutions supporting the Arab position and urging Israel to carry out all UN resolutions.

Shaykh Sa'd said: I do not deny that there have been developments in the last few days but we do not deal with individuals and we are following closely decisions and recommendations made by the new Israeli Government.

He added: We should wait patiently and see what moves are made by this government. We are not here to engage in one-upmanship or obstruct the work of anyone which is for the good of the Palestinian people. We take this position because it is in the interests of the Palestinian people and I would not give away a secret by saying that these issues will be discussed at the summit.

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Inter-Arab: Saudi Foreign Minister on Reconciliation With Iraq

NC2306152596 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sau'd al-Faysal affirmed that the plenary Arab summit in Cairo has produced very positive results as illustrated by the summit's final communique.

Asked if the Gulf countries still have reservations regarding reconciliation with Iraq, the Saudi foreign minister declared that there are no reservations on any Arab reconciliations. He noted, however, that reconciliation must be based on a sound basis as the summit's final communique made clear.

Inter-Arab: Mubarak—Summit 'Not Targeted Against Israel'

NC2106180596 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has emphasized that the Arab summit seeks to reunite Arabs and give momentum to the peace process. He affirmed that the summit is targeted against no one and that, contrary to what some people and certain news agencies have claimed, it is not targeted against Israel.

In remarks to reporters after welcoming the Arab leaders taking part in the summit at the airport today, the president said that the summit will consider a regular annual meeting which, in his view, constitutes a kind of get together.

Asked about reviving the Arab League's role and developing an Arab economic bloc, President Mubarak said: We are trying first of all to bring the Arabs together under the Arab League umbrella. Later we can discuss the need for an annual Arab summit. He pointed out that this tradition was to be established in 1990, if it had not been for Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

The president said in his statements that when the a summit meeting is held annually, we will certainly become a kind of grouping like other world groupings, such as the European Union and the American and Asian states' groupings. He remarked that this is a goal we seek and will work for in the economic, political, and other spheres.

The president commended the regularity of the African summit meetings, where the leaders get together in late June or early July every year regardless of their internal differences. He added that many differences are resolved during this African summit.

The president hoped the Arab summit will pursue the African example, pointing out that this is bound to eliminate differences from time to time.

Asked whether other issues will be added to the summit agenda, President Husni Mubarak said there is nothing on it but the peace process and reuniting Arabs.

Inter-Arab: Jordanian Minister—Freeze in Process With Israel Not Issue at Summit

TA2206152896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian Information Minister Marwan al-Mu'ashshir has said that the question of freezing the process of normalization between the Arab world and Israel was not discussed at all at the Cairo summit. All the parties agreed that the peace process was a strategic choice on the part of the Arabs and that it must be pursued until agreements are reached on all the negotiating tracks.

Minister al-Mu'ashshir told Arye Gus, the Qol Yisra'el correspondent to the Arab summit, that this morning's lengthy meeting between King Husayn and Syrian President al-Asad marked the beginning of a rapprochement and laid the foundation for the resolution of all the outstanding problems between the two countries.

Minister al-Mu'ashshir said that after coordinating his stance with the other Arab countries, King Husayn presented Jordan's position on terrorism in great detail at the summit. The Jordanian minister asserted that the need to stop terrorism would be noted in the summit's closing statement.

President al-Asad also met with Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. PA official Nabil Sha'th said that the meeting promoted the possibility of a reconciliation between the two sides, although there are still issues on which Syria and the Palestinians disagree.

Inter-Arab: 'Urayqat—Summit To Back Independent Palestinian State

NC2106132696 Paris AFP in English 1306 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 21 (AFP)—This weekend's Arab summit will support the creation of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, Palestinian Local Government Minister Sa'ib 'Urayqat said on Friday [21 June].

"The final statement of the summit will underline the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital and stress the need to implement Palestinian-Israeli agreements and the pursuit of negotiations on a final status," 'Urayqat told AFP.

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'Urayqat is on a committee of Arab officials who will draft a final resolution to be submitted for approval Sunday at the end of the two-day summit of 21 members of the Arab League.

The summit, from which Iraq has been excluded, is the first in six years and will seek to build Arab solidarity to force Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to soften his hardline stance on peace.

According to 'Urayqat, the final declaration will underscore the need to "put an end to Israel's settlement policies" in the occupied territories and warn Israel it will "bear sole responsibility for the collapse of the peace process" unless past agreements are met.

The document proposed by Egypt which is hosting the summit will warn against "the danger of deviating from the principles of the peace process, namely the land-for-peace principle," 'Urayqat said.

A list of guidelines contained in a draft resolution obtained Friday by AFP fails to mention the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Inter-Arab: 'Arafat Calls Meeting With Syria's al-Asad 'Reconciliation'

NC2306145296 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat voiced satisfaction today with the results of the plenary Arab summit conference, declaring that it marks a new beginning of Arab solidarity and entrenches collective Arab action.

In remarks to reporters this afternoon, 'Arafat said that the meetings and consultations held by the Arab leaders on the sidelines of the summit achieved "positive and fruitful results."

He described the summit's final communique as "complete in all its aspects."

Commenting on his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the sidelines of the summit, 'Arafat remarked: "The meeting has achieved a reconciliation. I am happy with this meeting. Our objective, after all, is to attain Arab consensus."

Inter-Arab: PA Official—al-Asad-'Arafat Meeting 'Positive'

NC2306152496 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, information minister in the Palestinian Authority [PA], has stated that President Husni Mubarak has succeeded in eliminating the disagreements between Syria and the PA by convening a meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Yasir 'Arafat which President Mubarak also attended.

'Abd-Rabbuh declared that the half-hour meeting was positive and good. He noted that agreement has been reached to hold another meeting in the future.

Inter-Arab: No 'Complete Reconciliation' Between al-Asad, King Husayn

NC2206193396 Cairo MENA in English 1905 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 22 (MENA)—Today's meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Jordan's King Husayn was more positive than expected, said Dr. Usamah al-Baz, the first foreign under secretary and presidential office director for political affairs.

Al-Baz told MENA that though the meeting was quite positive, it was not a complete reconciliation between the two sides. He added that no date has been set yet for holding the coordination meeting grouping Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Syria and Lebanon.

On the possibility of holding a bilateral meeting between President Mubarak and Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir, al-Baz said no date has been set for such a probable meeting.

Inter-Arab: 'Heated Argument' Between al-Shar', al-Kabariti Reported

NC2206054796 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 Jun 96

[Report from the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY team in Cairo—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The 14th Arab summit called for by the recent Damascus tripartite meeting will be held at the conference palace in Cairo at 1200 today. [passage omitted]

On the eve of the Arab summit meetings were held aiming to reunify the Arab rank and study the next stage of the peace process in light of developments in Israel. These meetings were led by President Husni Mubarak, who met Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and Jordanian King Husayn.

But the most prominent meeting is that grouping Presidents Mubarak, al-Asad, and 'Arafat. It is considered a reconciliation meeting between the Syrian president and Palestinian leader after relations between President al-Asad and 'Arafat became lukewarm. President

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Mubarak's meeting with King Husayn was an opportunity to discuss the tepid ties between Jordan and Syria. Remember, a heated argument erupted between Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Jordanian prime minister and foreign minister, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti. Sharp words between the two sides almost developed to the point where they could have affected the summit atmosphere.

President Mubarak is trying hard to arrange a meeting between President al-Asad and the Jordanian monarch. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab: King Husayn, al-Asad Hold Second Meeting in 2 Days

NC2306183996 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has stated that King Husayn of Jordan and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad held a meeting tonight, the second in two days, to review all points of contention between Jordan and Syria. The meeting was held on the fringes of a tripartite meeting of President Mubarak, King Husayn, and President al-Asad. Al-Kabariti praised President Mubarak's role in arranging this second meeting.

Al-Kabariti said there are no differences between Syria and Jordan that cannot be resolved. If there are differences, they can be resolved on the instructions of the two leaders. He added that cooperation and coordination between the two countries require a clear basis and framework founded on mutual respect and equal and balanced interests. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab: Jordan's Husayn—Meeting With al-Asad 'Very Successful'

JN2306152596 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1123 GMT 23 Jun 96

[Statements by King Husayn of Jordan to unidentified correspondents in Cairo on 23 June before the final session of the Arab summit — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent, in English] Are you happy with this summit. Do you think that it delivered the message that it was supposed to?

[Husayn, in English] I belief it has. It came at a timely moment. It's been long overdue. But we are very, very grateful that it did take place, and we owe so much to President Mubarak for inviting us to this meeting. And I think it opens the way towards greater cooperation between us all in the Arab world on the road to complementarity and to face up to the challenges of the future.

[Correspondent, in English] Do you think Israel will respond to this message, and if not what do you think the Arabs should do?

[Husayn, in English] I have said time and again that I believe that the peace process is irreversible and that the change in Israel is a change of the person of the prime minister, but all the signals we have so far indicate that there is a commitment to fulfill all previous agreements and to build on them.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty: We are used to hearing frank language from you. There are contradictory statements about the results of the meeting between your majesty and the Syrian president. Some say it was positive and resolved problems. Some say the meeting was not positive. Your speech at yesterday's session contained clear criticism of Syria and its interference in the domestic affairs of other states and its sponsorship of terrorism. What happened really?

[Husayn] The meeting was good and very successful. I also thank His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak who arranged the meeting and provided us with the opportunity to have a frank, constructive, and brotherly exchange. Praised be God, we came out with the best results.

[Correspondent] In your speech, you seemed optimistic about the developments in the peace process and the position in Israel. What is the basis of this attitude?

[Husayn] I am personally optimistic because there is no alternative to a just and comprehensive peace in this region.

[Correspondent] If Israel does not keep its promises, what should be the Arab position?

[Husayn] I believe we should judge matters as they develop.

[Correspondent] You were concerned that some may try to utilize the summit for their own benefit. Has this happened, or was the moderate trend, which Jordan supports, able to prevail in the end?

[Husayn] I believe the trend was moderate, positive, and constructive in the full sense of the word.

[Correspondent, in English] Your Majesty: Will Jordan play a mediating role with Israel in case...

[Husayn, interrupting in English] If Jordan has any credibility anywhere in the world, it will always utilize that to bring about progress and to serve the cause of a just and honorable and lasting peace.

[Correspondent, in English] Your Majesty: Is there another meeting set between you and President al-Asad in the near future?

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[Husayn, in English] I think we will continue to be in a very close touch with each other.

[Correspondent] Did you agree on a mechanism to implement the summit resolutions, or will [words indistinct] a follow-up committee?

[Husayn] Of course, we will follow up.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty: Do you think Syria will respond to Jordan's request to stop supporting the organizations it sponsors. This was a demand... [correspondent changes into English] we heard that it was one of the, you know, wishes.

[Husayn, in English] We have had a problem of infiltration into Jordan and attempts to destabilize and to create acts of terror. And we presented our case. And I am sure that our Syrian brethren, at the very highest levels, will take whatever appropriate actions to prevent any further deterioration.

[Correspondent] There was some debate at the conference over the definition of terrorism. There was some talk about a conference for terrorism.

[Husayn] Conference for terrorism, no, I think the Sharm al-Shaykh summit was...

[Correspondent, interrupting] No, no, I am not joking.

[Husayn, laughing] Not so.

[Correspondent] Was the Jordanian position criticized at the summit meetings because of what some people call the policy of rushing toward normalization with Israel?

[Husayn] We did not notice any such criticism.

[Correspondent] Do you consider this summit, which convened in Cairo, a new chapter and a real beginning for joint Arab action?

[Husayn] I consider it indeed a new chapter and a new beginning for joint Arab action. All my impressions about it are positive, particularly in regard to the efforts exerted by the brother foreign ministers. Every issue was important to all and was discussed by all. They, consequently, reached positive results.

Inter-Arab: King Husayn Plans To Stay in 'Close Contact' With al-Asad

NC2306123696 Paris AFP in English 1241 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 23 (AFP)—Jordan's King Husayn told AFP on Sunday [23 June] that he would stay in "close contact" with Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad, who he met for the first time in two years this weekend.

"We will continue to be in very close contact," King Husayn said after the closing of the weekend's historic Arab summit in Cairo which brought the two leaders together.

He said that in the one-hour meeting with al-Asad on Saturday, "we presented our case" concerning "attempts to destabilize Jordan."

"I am sure that our Syrian brothers will take all the appropriate measures to put an end to these attempts to destabilize our country," he added.

King Husayn accused Syria in early June of allowing armed militants led by radical Palestinian groups based in Damascus to cross the border into Jordan to conduct attacks against Jordanians and Israeli tourists.

The monarch gave al-Asad during the meeting a complete dossier on 56 attempted attacks, with "photos and documents which implicate in particular the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command led by Ahmad Jibril," a Jordanian official told AFP.

King Husayn underlined that the peace process is "irreversible" and that "all signals from the new Israeli government show that it is committed to peace and will respect accords reached with Arab parties."

The Cairo summit was called to patch up Arab disputes and build a joint front on the Middle East peace process to deal with Israel's new rightwing government.

Inter-Arab: Mubarak, Bahraini Amir Discuss Iranian 'Schemes' at Meeting

NC2006193696 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that the Arab summit seeks to close Arab ranks and support the peace process to achieve a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of a land-for-peace exchange.

In statements after a meeting with His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, President Mubarak said: I have extremely good relations with his highness the amir and Prime Minister Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah. Egypt and Bahrain are also linked with very good relations, and we view Bahrain as a country very close to Egypt in all aspects.

The president said he and the amir of Bahrain discussed bilateral ties, the current situation in Bahrain, and the irresponsible acts designed to shake stability in Bahrain. He said: Such acts take place in many other countries; we have also experienced them here in Egypt.

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He added: "We discussed this subject and its causes. We hope God will guide people to the right path. One should focus on his own issues because we do not have time to waste on killing and bloodshed."

On the possibility of confronting Iranian schemes against Bahrain and other states in the region, President Mubarak said: Let us not discuss this in front of the media. I discussed this subject with my brother His Highness Shaykh 'Isa and Prime Minister Khalifah. I hope Bahrain will safely reach the shore, that things will calm down, and that citizens will understand that what is happening is eventually detrimental to the people of Bahrain and to the peoples of the entire region.

Asked about his expectations from the Arab summit, especially if he takes the credit for calling it, President Mubarak said: "The credit goes to all Arab brothers and leaders; without their response and our confidence that they would respond to the call, the summit would not have been possible."

MENA asked Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah about the trilateral Damascus summit's condemnation of foreign interference in Bahrain's affairs and whether Bahrain will ask the Arab summit in Cairo to directly condemn this persistent Iranian interference in the affairs of Bahrain and other states in the region. He replied: "I discussed this with President Mubarak, and we reviewed everything of concern to our two countries."

He stressed that Bahrain's relations with Egypt and the other Arab countries are excellent.

He said Egypt and the Arab countries have supported Bahrain against Iranian interference in Bahrain's internal affairs. He added: We found every backing and response from everyone. President Mubarak was quick to offer his support and his good offices for the sake of stability in Bahrain and the entire Arab world.

He added: "Bahrain and Egypt are one country; we hold nothing but full appreciation for and pride in the president and people of Egypt."

Inter-Arab: Minister on 'Nuances' in Declaration on Turkey, Terrorism

NC2306084796 Paris AFP in English 0815 GMT 23 Jun 96

[Report by Lee Keath]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 23 (AFP)—Arab leaders were to set to issue a firm demand that Israel trade land to win peace on the last day of their historic summit here on Sunday [23 June].

Presidents, monarchs and officials from 21 Arab nations were to meet at 1:00 p.m. (1000 GMT) for a two-hour session to adopt a final summit declaration.

Their foreign ministers had worked through the night to draw up the final statement on the Middle East peace process and Arab solidarity.

They "continued discussions until dawn to arrive at a formula (for the statement) which satisfies all the delegation," one of the ministers told AFP.

A draft statement received by AFP on Saturday [22 June] insists that the peace process "requires an unconditional Israeli retreat from Syria's Golan Heights, south Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territories."

It also demands "that the Palestinian people be allowed to exercise their right of self-determination and to establish an independent state."

It warns that delaying in the peace process could "plunge the region once more into a cycle of violence and force the Arabs to reconsider the approaches made to Israel in the peace process," referring to moves by some Arab nations to build ties with the Jewish state.

The two-day summit, which is the Arabs' first since 1990, aims to clear up inter-Arab disputes to form a common front in the peace process to face Israel's new hardline Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

However divisive issues remain between Arab states, notably that of terrorism.

In the final statement, "certain nuances have been introduced to overcome differences on points of controversy, especially on the issues of terrorism and Turkey," said the minister who sat in on the discussions but did not want to be named.

"A distinction between terrorism and resistance has been kept, but the formulation was finessed to overcome Jordanian opposition to the paragraph," he said.

Syria had demanded a clause affirming the right to resist occupation and aggression while condemning terrorism striking Arab countries.

Jordan, which has accused Syria of backing armed groups aiming to commit both anti-Israeli and anti-Jordanian attacks on its territory, wanted a blanket condemnation of terrorism no matter what the form or source.

On Turkey, which Jordan had demanded the summit not reproach, the summit will only express its "concern" over Ankara's recent military accord with Israel, not "condemn" as Damascus requested.

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Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Returns, Said 'Satisfied' With Summit

JN2306201696 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Jun 96

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat returned home from Cairo a short while ago after taking part in the expanded Arab summit meeting which ended today. He was received at the presidential office in Gaza — where he inspected an honor guard — by a number of ministers, members of the PLO Executive Committee, and other officials and commanders.

President 'Arafat will chair a joint meeting of the PLO Executive Committee and the Council of Ministers at the presidential office in Gaza tomorrow evening. Immediately after his arrival in Gaza, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President 'Arafat's adviser, said that the joint meeting — which will be attended by Salim al-Za'nun, speaker of the Palestine National Council, and Ahmad Quray', speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council — will address the results of the successful Cairo summit. He said the meeting will also address the latest developments in the peace process in light of the Arab summit meeting.

Abu-Rudaynah lauded the results of the summit. He said that President 'Arafat was fully satisfied with the results of the summit. He also praised the distinguished Egyptian efforts to ensure the success of the summit. He asserted that the plenary Arab summit restored Arab solidarity. In a statement to the Voice of Palestine, abu-Rudaynah praised the results of the meetings held on the fringes of the summit, particularly President 'Arafat's meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He said the spirit of fraternity permeated the conference. He noted that the Arab summit renewed the absolute support for the just Palestinian cause and the legitimate Palestinian rights.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Receives Clinton Message Supporting Authority

JN2406124296 Gaza Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jun 96

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton in which the U.S. president voiced his support for the National Authority and his commitment to the peace process. U.S. Consul-General Edward Abington conveyed the message to President 'Arafat at noon today.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat To Visit Syria Aiming To Restore Ties

NC2306114796 Paris AFP in English 1146 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 23 (AFP)— Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is to visit Syria as part of moves to restore ties with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, a Palestinian official said Sunday [23 June].

Palestinian Affairs: Sha'th Terms 'Arafat-al-Asad Meeting 'Important Step'

JN2206141296 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Dr. Nabil Sha'th said that President Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with his Syrian counterpart, Hafiz al-Asad, was an important step toward Arab solidarity. Sha'th said Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon have a joint interest in achieving a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace.

Minister Sha'th urged the international community and the two sponsors of the peace process to press the new Israeli Government led by Binyamin Netanyahu to implement all accords and commit itself to the peace process. He added that the agenda of the expanded Arab summit included two principal topics namely the Middle East peace process, especially on the Palestinian track, and reviving Arab solidarity.

Palestinian Affairs: Sha'th Says 'We Shall Not Leave Our Land'

MM2106084096 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Jun 96 p 5

[Report by Jihan al-Husayni in Cairo: "Sha'th: We Shall Not Leave Our Land If Netanyahu Decides To Occupy It Again"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, downplayed the differences between new Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his predecessor, Labor's Shim'on Peres, explaining that there are no basic differences between them regarding the final status, but that Peres differed on the interim solutions. In a meeting with the Palestinian community in Cairo on Tuesday evening, Sha'th said Peres made a historic start while in the Rabin Government, but the situation is different as we edge closer to the final status, because the Zionist concept of "Palestine for the Jews" is prevalent, and the concessions that they could make do not include Jerusalem.

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He added: "They want peace at a much lower price than we do, but we will not let them. We are now on Palestinian land, and if Netanyahu decides to occupy it again, we will stay there and will not leave. The road now only leads in and not out."

Sha'th stressed that the PLO could not have remained outside "because our being outside the homeland gave the world more opportunities to exert pressure on us. Had the PLO continued abroad, it would have been a bigger catastrophe, because it was suffering from a blockade and a political and financial drain. From March 1990 the PLO did not get a single cent, and talk of it having millions and billions is groundless. The revenues of 30 years were used up for priorities, and some of them were not used properly. The PLO was being eroded during a time of pronounced Arab fragmentation. That is why the return to the Palestinian homeland was the key for ending the Israeli occupation. We could not wait for a total liberation of the Palestinian land, or for the instantaneous establishment of our independent state. It was necessary to return in order to build our institutions and create a mechanism to guarantee that action continues with a view to achieving the Palestinian state."

Sha'th stressed that "the battle to regain the homeland is arduous, but its weapons are different. The threat of war is no longer one of them, because it is an empty and useless threat." He said: "The fact we cannot play the military game does not mean we do not have the cards to win the battle." He added that the Palestinian issue is what causes most concern for Israel: "The Golan issue does not worry them, because they can wait 10 years. Of course they have no alternative but to work with Syria. However, it is not an urgent matter. The Palestinians are under their noses, and they cannot escape from us."

Sha'th stressed the importance of reconciliation with Syria and said more than once: "I hope this reconciliation takes place tomorrow." On the U.S. position, he said: "The United States plays the major part, but not the only one. It is aware that the only peace is in the form that the Palestinians want, a state with Jerusalem as its capital and the solving of the refugees problem." He said that the day Netanyahu was elected, 'Arafat was visiting Britain and British Prime Minister John Major told him: "You are not alone." President Bill Clinton also sent him an extremely positive message which he described as "the first message which is really positive."

Sha'th expressed his belief that the world will not accept self-rule as the final status, because everyone knows this is not a permanent and stable solution. He said: "Even assuming that we accept self-rule, the world will not accept it." He described the Cairo summit as a response to the challenge, albeit six years late, but now that the Arabs have realized the danger it is finally taking place, to affirm that nobody can hamper the peace process.

On the Palestinian Islamic resistance, Sha'th said that Hamas' popularity [rating] has dropped to 4.3 percent and that [Islamic] Jihad's popularity is down to 0.7 percent.

He explained that by saying that "peace has its own various weapons, because those who have not fought with us over the past 40 years now want to fight. They are like those who go on the Hajj pilgrimage, on the off-chance that it will do good."

On his political predictions for Netanyahu's government, he said it includes some of the worst Israeli political figures, but it should adhere to peace, explaining that "the worst that could happen is that they declare that they are committed to the peace process, then waste time and build settlements. We are aware that this could happen, and ask the Israeli Government to implement what was agreed. The world now stands by our side. The negotiations with Peres were difficult, because he enjoyed international support because he was perceived as the messenger of peace. Netanyahu, with his positions and associates, faces international anger. This could be a positive element in the final status negotiations."

After the meeting, Sha'th told AL-HAYAH that the Palestinians hold many cards, in particular their determination to regain their rights, and said that, no matter how weak, the Arab card will not fail. In response to a question on the Jordanian option, Sha'th said: "This is an eternal bogeyman in the Palestinian arena. However, I believe it is impossible for Jordan to impose its hegemony over the Palestinian people. Every now and again, the Israelis produce this option in an attempt to create a conflict between us and the brothers in Jordan."

Palestinian Affairs: DFLP Praises Final Communique of Arab Summit

NC2306155196 Paris AFP in English 1500 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, June 23 (AFP) — The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), a main Palestinian opposition group, praised Sunday [23 June] the final declaration from the Arab summit in Cairo as a step in the right direction.

"The final summit declaration is a step in the right direction aimed at improving the Arab situation, which has suffered many setbacks since the Gulf War," the DFLP statement received in Damascus said.

But the group also asked Arab leaders to complete the summit resolutions by "suspending all normalization

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with Israel until its withdrawal from occupied territories and its recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination."

The DFLP, which is also one of the three main factions in Yasir 'Arafat's PLO, said it was disappointed that the Cairo summit did not declare "the right of return for Palestinian refugees (to Palestine) conforming to resolution 194," of the UN Security Council.

The DFLP has opposed 'Arafat's autonomy accords with Israel.

The Cairo summit was called by Arab leaders amid concern over the future direction of the Middle East peace process following the election of a new rightwing government in Israel.

Palestinian Affairs: Palestinian Forces Alliance Sends Memorandum to Summit

JN2106160296 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1330 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Command of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces addressed a political memorandum to the Arab leaders meeting at the Cairo Arab summit, in which it called on the Arab summit to reject the Oslo agreements, the Wadi al-'Arabah agreements, and all the other agreements that were signed with the Zionist enemy; to cancel the decisions on recognizing the enemy; to halt all forms of normalization with it; and to come up with resolutions affirming the Palestinian people's right to pursue their struggle until they achieve their national objectives of liberation and repatriation.

The Central Command appealed to the Arab summit not to deal with the Oslo team which falsely claims to represent the Palestinian people. It said: The masses of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied homeland and the diaspora voiced their rejection of the Oslo agreements and all their results, whether through petitions, memorandums, strikes, sit-in's, popular conferences, or the blood of martyrs through the heroic operations which will continue against the Zionist enemy.

In its memorandum, the Central Command added: Throughout long decades of the conflict with the Zionist enemy, the Palestinian Arab people waged honorable struggle and recorded bright chapters of glory, pride, and honor. They fight in defense of their homeland. They have spared no effort to support the struggle of their nation which made dear sacrifices for the sake of Palestine and its Arabism. The Palestinian Arab people have always been united with their nation, struggling within its ranks, guided by its hopes and aspirations, and embodying, by tens of thousands of its sons' blood which was mixed with the blood of Arab strugglers on the land of Palestine and for its sake, their true affiliation with the Arab nation. Based on this, what was forged in the name of the Palestinian people—particularly the agreements which were signed by 'Arafat and the Zionist entity, or the decisions made by 'Arafat's institutions and illegal councils, whether the approval of agreements or the cancellation of the Palestinian National Charter—are null and void, do not represent the Palestinian people, and are not binding to them.

In its memorandum to the Arab leaders the Central Command said: The Zionist entity is basically the antithesis of peace, and the peace which it understands is capitulation to its objectives and plans which are based on submission, subjugation, control, and hegemony over the Arab homeland and nation.

It said: The results of the Knesset and premiership elections in the Zionist entity have revealed the true nature of this Zionist gathering on the land of Palestine. This entity becomes more aggressive and extremist every day.

The Central Command hoped the Arab summit would succeed in closing ranks; achieving Arab solidarity based on the objectives of liberation; and stopping the deterioration and collapse of the Arab situation. The comand hoped the summit would succeed in a way which safeguards pan-Arab security; upholds the Arab nation's prestige and status; and confronts all challenges, plans, programs, and alliances — particularly the Turkish-Zionist alliance — which are aimed at undermining steadfastness to make it easy for the Zionist enemy to expand in the Arab homeland and to establish a Middle East order at the expense of the nation's unity and pan-Arab identity—an order which undermines the pillars of the Arab nation's progress, and in which the Zionist entity will be the main pillar of the colonialist interests in the Arab homeland.

The Central Command urged the Arab leaders to assume their historic responsibilities toward the Palestine question and the Arab nation's issues, and to support the Palestinian people's just and legitimate struggle until the Palestinian people's objectives of full liberation and repatriation are achieved.

Palestinian Affairs: Jerusalem PNC Members Urge Summit To Support PA

JN2106195896 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestine National Council [PNC] members in the occupied city of Jerusalem

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called on the Arab summit which will be held in Cairo tomorrow to support the Palestinian Authority [PA] under President Yasir 'Arafat, and to emphasize that Jerusalem is the political capital of Palestine.

In a statement they issued today under the headline "An Appeal From Jerusalem to the Arab Leaders at their Summit," the PNC members called on the Arab kings and presidents who will participate in the summit to link Arab-Israeli normalization to the extent of the Israeli Government's response to the requirements of peace on the Palestinian track and the other Arab tracks.

The statement urged the Arab states to execute joint investment projects with the Palestinian side in the PA areas. It also called on them to open the Arab markets to the Palestinian products and exports.

The statement stressed the need to release all the Palestinian prisoners from Israeli prisons. It said that the Arab summit is called upon to recognize the Palestinian passport and to facilitate its bearers' travel to all Arab states without hindrance.

Regarding the situation in occupied Jerusalem, the PNC members appealed to the Arab leaders and to the Jerusalem Committee which is chaired by Moroccan King Hassan II to preserve the Arab character of the holy city by extending aid to its various institutions and securing the freedom of worship and access to the Islamic and Christian holy places in it.

Palestinian Affairs: Summit Urged To Discuss Israeli Pullout From Hebron

JN2206074796 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Hebron popular organizations and figures called on the Arab kings and presidents participating in the Cairo summit to consider the issue of the Israeli occupation forces' withdrawal from the city of Hebron as a major topic on their agenda. The Hebron popular organizations and figures called on the summit to adopt a resolution on Hebron, binding the Israeli Government to implement the signed accords and considering the Palestinian side's commitment to these accords a sign of its adherence to the course of peace in the region. A statement issued by these organizations and figures notes the arbitrary practices by the occupation forces and settlers against the Hebron citizens, their property, and holy places.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Seeks Summit Help, Slams 'Unjust' Accords

NC2206101596 Paris AFP in English 1000 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, June 22 (AFP)—The Palestinian militant group Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] called on the Arab summit in Cairo on Saturday [22 June] to repeal the "unjust" Arab-Israeli accords and back "popular resistance" to support the Palestinians.

The group called on Arab leaders to "reconsider their positions regarding the political process with the Zionist entity by ending negotiations, cancelling unjust accords and treaties, and halting the normalization" with Israel.

The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) also said in a statement received by AFP that the summit should "support the popular resistance which constitutes the best way to confront the Zionist plots and the challenges which threaten the (Arab) nation."

Hamas, which opposes the Palestinian autonomy accords signed with Israel, has been behind most of the deadly suicide bombings in the Jewish state.

It called on Arab leaders to help reduce the Palestinians' economic dependence on Israel and put pressure on Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to end his "oppression, which threatens internal conflict among Palestinians."

Palestinian Affairs: Quray' Says Netanyahu Must Negotiate With Authority

TA2306075996 Ramallah AL-BILAD in Arabic 20 Jun 96 p 3

[Report by Sawsan Hammudah]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BILAD, Ramallah — Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', speaker of the Legislative Council [LC], has said that the leaders of the new Israeli Government have a known history of disavowing Palestinian national rights. Nevertheless, we are ready to hear this government's viewpoint and to negotiate with it, provided that it respects what has been agreed upon between us and the previous government.

Abu-'Ala' stated that the problems that the National Authority [NA] is facing with the new government are summed up in several issues, foremost of which are implementing the previous agreements, solving the refugee problem, solving the issue of water and electricity, redeploying in Hebron, releasing the male and female prisoners, turning B areas into A areas, and turning a third of the C areas into A areas.

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Abu-'Ala' stressed the need to implement these issues without exception, referring to the need to launch the final status talks which will lead, as he said, to the realization of inalienable national rights.

The LC speaker reaffirmed that the NA is ready to negotiate with the new Israeli Government, regardless of its makeup. He said, however, that we do not accept nor can we deal with the guidelines set by the new government.

Commenting on Netanyahu's call for negotiations with the Arab parties while disregarding the Palestinian side, Abu-'Ala' said that while Netanyahu calls for negotiations with the Arab parties, including Saudi Arabia, the latter has not agreed to negotiate because it has a clear stance regarding the Palestinian problem, which at the same time is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Moreover, the Arab countries view these negotiations in the same manner.

He added that the only option for Netanyahu is to negotiate with the Palestinian side in order to reach a just solution to the Palestinian problem. Whoever believes we will sacrifice any of our rights is deluding himself. We did not sign a peace agreement, but rather temporary and transitional agreements. A declaration of principles might be or might not be considered as a peace agreement.

Palestinian Affairs: Quray' on Netanyahu Plan, Constitution

MM2106125696 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 20 Jun 96 p 6

[Interview with Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmad Quray' by Khalil 'Abd-Rabbuh in Jerusalem; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-Rabbuh] Finally, the features of Binyamin Netanyahu cabinet's draft plan are crystal clear. How, in your view, will matters proceed if implementation of that plan begins?

[Quray'] Implementation and insistence on Netanyahu's program would, in realistic terms, be tantamount to killing the peace process. For our part, we insist on the peace process and on implementation of everything that was agreed upon, but if the other party showed no desire to proceed with the negotiation process we would then do what is necessary to face the situation.

['Abd-Rabbuh] What steps would you take if the Israeli side insisted on its program?

[Quray'] Now is not the time to talk about the steps we would take — that comes later — but I wish to say that if Netanyahu's government began implementing its program, it would be giving the necessary cover and pretexts for the forces opposed to the peace process to escalate their activities, and the forces which support the peace process would lose their argument and their ability to defend it.... Everything would go back to the old situation, and maybe worse — and there would be nothing to control the people's reactions against that arrogant and extremist policy.

['Abd-Rabbuh] The downfall of Peres' government also brought down the team you have been negotiating with for years and the channels of dialogue and contact which secured solutions to the problems.... What preparations has the Palestinian side made for dealing with the new Israeli negotiators?

[Quray'] The Palestinians should of course reconsider all aspects of the negotiation process with the Israelis. Israel has not only changed its negotiators, it has also changed its negotiating strategy. That is why I believe it is necessary for the Palestinians to draw up a new, clear, and specific negotiating strategy that would safeguard the inalienable principles in the Palestinian position and our people's national rights, and that would constitute the terms of reference for the Palestinian negotiators.

['Abd-Rabbuh] What, in your view, would this new strategy be based on?

[Quray'] The refugee question should top all issues in the final negotiations and we would not tackle any other issue before that is resolved. There can be no final solution to the Palestinian question without settlement of the refugee question. On Jerusalem, we should stress the principle that our negotiations are not about the city's administrative structure but about whether or not it is an occupied territory. If it is an occupied city as confirmed by all UN resolutions and unanimously agreed by all states of the world, then Israel has to withdraw from it. That point is not negotiable and not open to bargaining. As to how we could ensure access to the holy places and develop services and tourism in the city, that would be open to discussion.

As for [Israeli] settlements — the point which must be emphasized is that this constitutes a hostile act and [the settlements] must be dismantled. The negotiations should be about how they are to be dismantled. We are now engaged in the battle of confirming the principles of the final negotiations which should secure the right of repatriation as well as our right to self-determination and our right to build our independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Netanyahu's circles are talking about their commitment to the peace process. What, in your view, is the practical test of whether or not the Israeli

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Government will, in deeds not words, adhere to the peace process?

[Quray'] First of all it must implement all previous agreements to the letter, and, above all, implement the agreement on the repatriation of the refugees of the 1967 war and thereafter. That was acknowledged in the Oslo-1 agreement but has not been implemented yet. Then there must be a redeployment in Hebron, all detainees must be released, and an agreement must be reached on a safe passage.

There are also a number of issues on which agreement was reached but not implemented, namely the agreement on water and electricity in the West Bank, and the matter of the control of territory.... The Taba agreement stipulates that three months after the election of the [Palestinian] Legislative Council [PC] the areas in category "B" will revert to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] to become just like the areas in category "A," and that vast parts of the "C" areas will become the PNA's responsibility. It was agreed that one-third of the "C" areas would shift to the PNA's responsibility at the beginning of July.

The Israeli Government should implement these agreements according to the decided and agreed upon schedules. Parallel to that, it should start negotiations on the final status. That way one could say that the Israeli Government is committed, in deeds not words, to the peace process.

['Abd-Rabbuh] After a long interval, an Arab summit conference will be held in a matter of days. In your view, what effect will that summit have on the Arab and Palestinian situations?

[Quray'] The coming Arab summit will be a significant and historic event and will have positive and far-reaching effects on the entire Arab political, economic, and social life. It will seek to restore Arab solidarity. The timing of the summit is politically very important. It coincides with a political change in the region, namely the downfall of the Israeli Labor Party and the advent of Netanyahu's government with its clearly arrogant and extremist program.

['Abd-Rabbuh] What do the Palestinians want from the summit?

[Quray'] The summit will undoubtedly discuss the situation in the entire region in the light of regional developments and will also discuss the issue of relations with Israel.

The Palestinian position will focus on commitment to the peace process and will emphasize that it is important that Israel honor its commitments and start negotiations on the final status.

We will also request that normalization of relations with Israel be linked to the extent of its commitment to the peace process. If Netanyahu proceeds to implement his government's program, normalization would then be meaningless.

['Abd-Rabbuh] There are those who believe the Palestinians are "seriously" anxious and fearful of Netanyahu. How do you view the matter?

[Quray'] We base our attitude toward any Israeli government not on the "beautiful eyes" of its politicians but on its policies and stands. We, on the Palestinian side, are concerned and cautious regarding what have appeared to be the lines of Netanyahu's government. I believe all our Arab brothers share our concern and our view, otherwise they would not have so hurriedly sought a summit conference.

['Abd-Rabbuh] The PNA and Syria appear to be the main targets of the policy of Netanyahu's government. Will that double threat lead to some rapprochement between them?

[Quray'] The Syrian position is one of the essential and important Arab positions. Syria was one of the countries which called for the summit. I believe the Syrian leadership has a clear idea about the Likud's policy and a clear analysis and knowledge of its extremist positions. Netanyahu has announced a new and unacceptable policy based on keeping the Golan and confiscating its water. That is why the Syrian position will be firm and clear. I believe the time has come for tranquillity, consultation, and coordination to be restored between the PLO and Syria.

['Abd-Rabbuh] The U.S. sponsor of the peace process has appealed to the Arabs to keep the door open to peace at their summit conference, but made no appeals to Netanyahu's government.

[Quray'] As sponsor of the peace process the United States is required to move strongly to put pressure on whichever side fails to honor its peace process commitments. I believe it is neither logical nor acceptable to reward the party which evades implementation of its commitments and which wants to destroy the peace process. That is why I pin some hope on the visit U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher intends to pay to Israel at the end of this month.

['Abd-Rabbuh] One view calls for an international conference to boost the peace process. What do you think of that?

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[Quray'] Yes...it might be useful to hold an international conference similar to the Sharm al-Shaykh conference to stress to all parties concerned in the region that the international community wants and insists on the peace process, and that it will not remain silent and will not accept a relinquishment of that process.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Let us talk about some Palestinian internal affairs. A draft Palestinian constitution has recently been published in the press. What stages will its approval take?

[Quray'] Let me first point out that the published draft is not the final draft. It is open to amendment, addition, and scrutiny before submission to the PC for discussion and approval. This is the sixth draft of the Palestinian constitution since a committee of Palestinian jurists was asked by the PLO Executive Committee in 1993 to prepare a draft constitution. We have published the draft in the press because we want to know the views and comments of all sectors of the Palestinian people including intellectuals, ordinary citizens, and political, economic, and social influential figures.

We also await the observations of the executive authority regarding that draft before referring the final draft to the PC. The Palestinian Justice Ministry was supposed to submit a draft to the PC but it was slow and, therefore, we had to refer the fifth draft to the PC's Legal Committee and ask it to prepare a new draft. The committee has sought the assistance of a number of Palestinian, Arab, and foreign experts in its work.

['Abd-Rabbuh] When do you expect it to be approved?

[Quray'] We have a decision that it should be approved before the end of the PC's ordinary session on 7 July, but we will extend the session to allow approval of the constitution and other important laws such as the local elections law and the civil service law.

['Abd-Rabbuh] One notices a conflict between the legislative and executive authorities over powers and roles.

[Quray'] That is natural.... In every state at the formative stage, conflict appears between the various authorities over powers and roles, with each authority trying to minimize the others' powers or limit their roles. We also have had that. Some voices in the council want some of the executive authority's powers for themselves and the council. That is wrong. Similarly, some in the executive authority want and are trying to contain the PC's role and usurp its task of controlling the work of the various ministries and institutions.

['Abd-Rabbuh] What is the situation now?

[Quray'] The situation is now moving towards stability.... The limits of its authority and powers are now clear to the PC and to the executive authority, in the context of solidarity in the interest of building the homeland.

['Abd-Rabbuh] The issue of forming a government and confirming it with a vote of confidence has dragged on. Will discussion of the cabinet statement and the vote of confidence be completed during this week's session?

[Quray'] I do not think so.... We will continue to discuss the cabinet statement this week — and the vote of confidence will be next week.

['Abd-Rabbuh] What is the latest on the crisis regarding the question of stopping Palestinian deputies at Israeli checkpoints, which considerably obstructed the work of the PC?

[Quray'] The issue has been finally resolved. The Israelis have agreed to issue special cards to the PC members to allow them to cross all Israeli checkpoints without being stopped or searched.

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Egypt

Egypt: Commentary Says Arabs Capable of Unity, Committed to Peace

NC2106175696 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 21 Jun 96

[Commentary by Hasan al-'Ashmawi: "A Summit of Solidarity and Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tomorrow will be a historic day for the Arabs. The Arab leaders are coming together, contrary to some people's claims that it is too difficult to rally the Arabs again and restore their solidarity. They will discuss their issues and examine the international and regional challenges facing them in a changing world.

Cairo played host to the last Arab summit six years ago, on 10 August 1991, on the heels of Iraq's aggression against Kuwait. On that day, addressing the Arabs leaders in the same hall where they will meet tomorrow, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak declared: We have a clear choice between effective Arab action that safeguards the Arab nation's supreme interests or foreign intervention in which we will have no say, over which we can exert no control, and whose motive cannot be the protection of Arab existence and rights. When he made that declaration, President Mubarak sought only to defend the Arab nation's good. He wished to preserve the Arabs' unity and feared any future threats to their existence and their causes.

The convening of an Arab summit under the current circumstances is a turning point in the Arab stance, which really needs a qualitative change to confront existing problems and challenges. In his efforts to pave the way for the summit, President Mubarak demonstrated this attitude of promoting a united Arab position that will give impetus to Arab issues. It is this that made Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, on his arrival in Cairo, stress Egypt's pan-Arab role in defending legitimate Arab rights and President Mubarak's sincere and diligent efforts to clear up Arab differences.

It is known that the summit's agenda has two main points. The first is to rally Arab ranks and surmount any disagreements that might undermine collective Arab action. The second is to boost and safeguard the peace process in light of recent regional developments, specifically the attitude of the new Israeli government. We must make clear that the Arab leaders will emphasize their support for the peace process during the summit and declare they will help it to move forward to the same degree that the new Israeli Government shows responsiveness, as measured by the interests of the Arab parties who are still negotiating with it — namely Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinians.

New Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi has called on the Arab summit to send Israel a warm message, as he put it, so that Israel can work with the Arabs. In our turn, we ask him: How can this happen in light of the Israeli no's which block the way to any progress in the peace process, set it back, and threaten to revive conflicts?

No doubt the Arab leaders will keep these matters in mind during their meeting tomorrow, in addition to discussing the developments and issues that might influence the general Arab situation. Certainly, the very convening of a new Arab summit in Cairo is a remarkable achievement of President Mubarak's diplomacy. It is no less important than what the Arabs will do once the summit meets to show the entire world that, despite all the experiences that befall the Arabs, they are still here, capable of a united stance, and able to defy dangers and difficulties, no matter how great.

Egypt: Papers View Arab Summit Outcome

NC2406081296 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0520 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA)— Today's Cairo newspapers are unanimous that the Cairo summit fulfilled all the hopes pinned on it and sent a clear message to Israel to reconsider its practices regarding the peace process. [passage omitted]

Under the headline "Confronting Israel with the Option of Peace," the AL-AHRAM editorial stresses that the Arab summit dispelled the fears of some people, who harbor insincere intentions and spread it about that the summit was held to close the door to the peace process in the Middle East. The paper says the summit sent a message of peace from Cairo to all the parties concerned. The paper notes that this was the substance of President Husni Mubarak's speech at the opening session of the summit and of the speeches by all the Arab leaders who participated in the summit and of the final summit communique. The paper says a fair assessment of the summit is that it backs the choice of peace as a strategic Arab one and defines in a concrete way the party that will be responsible for any setback in this choice. [passage omitted]

Under the headline "A New Start to Joint Arab Action," AL-JUMHURIYAH says the Cairo summit objectively expressed the cause of peace, as it emphasized to the other party the constants binding all the parties—adherence to a fair, comprehensive, and balanced peace in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, the land-for-peace principle, completing the peace process, and clearing the

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region of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. The paper asserts this stance gives new momentum to the peace process, suspended pending the Israeli elections. It says the peace process must be resumed, adhering to what has been achieved and forging ahead on the same path to achieve the great goal of a fair peace and security for all the parties. The paper says this Arab stance will receive the support of peaceloving forces and the sponsors of peace, noting that the Arab stance was devoid of emotionalism and pointing out that the Arab peace strategy deals with constants, established rules, and the commitments of countries and that resolutions do not change as governments change.

AL-WAFD Chief Editor Jamal Badawi stresses that the most important achievements of the Arab summit are manifest in closing the Arab rank after six years of division and disarray. He says the summit slowed down the rush toward Israel and made it realize the stance on peace will be parallel to implementing its obligations to withdraw from the Golan and Lebanon and the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. [passage omitted]

Egypt: Coptic Pope on Religious Summit Outcome

MM2006085896 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Jun 96 p 5

[Interview with Egyptian Coptic Pope Shanudah by Sana' al-Jak; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Jak] What is the next step after the conference "Muslims and Christians for the Sake of Jerusalem?"

[Shanudah] After the conference, the resolutions listed in the final statement should be referred to the politicians concerned to follow up the matter. A committee has been formed for coordination between the religious summit and the [upcoming Cairo Arab] political summit and to follow up on the reactions. The press has a role after the conference, namely to secure strong public opinion, especially if the journalists believe in what they write.

[Al-Jak] Is the media's role limited to the Arab press?

[Shanudah] The Arabs must have means to promote their issue in the West and to reply to what the Jews publish there. That can be done by making contacts with politicians and Arab diplomats in embassies and consulates abroad, or through Arab immigrants in the West, and also by making contacts with the Western press and other media services. In addition, there should be Arab media concerned primarily with our issues in the Western world. Local television stations address us, whereas through television in the West we can address Western public opinion, international politicians, congressmen, and others, in order to present the Jerusalem issue to the world. An Arab lobby should be established along the lines of the Zionist lobby, and we should demand that international resolutions be implemented and the region freed from destructive weapons.

[Al-Jak] In the final statement you urged a clear position on Jerusalem from the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] and Arab leaders. How can that be done?

[Shanudah] Before the PNA takes any position, I believe it needs every political and financial support from all the Arab states to enable it to carry out its work freely, instead of leaving it besieged in a Jewish environment that has its own policy. As for the Arab leaders' stand, that will be reflected in the summit's resolutions and the measures to be taken.

[Al-Jak] How do you view the issue of internationalizing Jerusalem?

[Shanudah] First of all, neither the Arabs nor the Israelis agree to the internationalization of Jerusalem. I do not know who agrees to that. Second, we still have a problem, namely how will the internationalization process be conducted and who can implement it? Will Western states intervene, or will the United Nations, or other authorities we do not know, intervene? And what will be the scale of this Western or foreign intervention? Third, if the internationalization process takes place, who will rule Jerusalem and to whom will it belong? Fourth, if the international process takes place despite all the difficulties we mentioned, will it last, or will it be a transitional step after which Jerusalem would be returned to Israel again? Fifth, if the Arabs accept the internationalization process, they will have relinquished the Arab identity of Jerusalem, as though they are shy to challenge Israel and have thus decided to surrender to it, when it has defied all the world. And how do we know that those who take charge of Jerusalem are not going to return it to Israel some time later? Sixth, if we talk about internationalization, we will not only have relinquished our rights, but also our history and long past, when we cannot guarantee the future.

[Al-Jak] How will you work to prevent Jerusalem from being Judaized?

[Shanudah] We are demanding the Arabs' right to Jerusalem. Then we should struggle [nujahid] for this right and not lose hope. We and this generation are responsible for what our sons and the next generation are going to say. We do not want them to say that we abandoned this right and did not struggle for it. As is known, the Europeans seized Jerusalem in 1099.

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Saladin recovered it from them 90 years later. This is why it is important for Jerusalem to remain in the memory of history and to be associated with the jihad, determination, and steadfastness.

[Al-Jak] Is the Arab position characterized by the coherence needed for the jihad and steadfastness for the sake of Jerusalem?

[Shanudah] There is Arab disunion; we are making great efforts to work to unite Arab ranks. The Cairo conference should work to adopt resolutions and take measures to achieve that. Especially as we have a just cause, despite the Jews' claim that they are "God's chosen people." This phrase emerged in the area in which the Jews lived as the People of the Book. God wanted this land to be given to a people who worship Him without paganism. And when the divine messages spread on earth, all believers became God's chosen people. Would the creator abandon the peoples of the world and bless the Jews only? As for peace, the word is used in the wrong context these days, and in a strange manner, while the Palestinians continue to be attacked in Jerusalem. They are made homeless, their land is confiscated, and they are attacked in the al-Aqsa Mosque.

The Arabs must unite to confront a one-sided peace and to achieve peace for all parties. They must unite to achieve a normalization process that reflects the real thing, not normalization with [a state] occupying Palestinian land, southern Lebanon, and the Golan. As for Israeli security, it cannot be achieved through a border strip in southern Lebanon. Israel's security can be achieved through its withdrawal from southern Lebanon, since its presence there prompts resistance, which is a reaction to some actions. If Israel returns to Lebanon its territory in the south, the resistance's role will end and Israel will be able to guarantee its security.

[Al-Jak] Finally, what are the characteristics of the Islamic-Christian conference?

[Shanudah] The conference was broadly based geographically, as it was attended by clerics and thinkers from Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Sudan, and other countries. It was held at the top level in terms of religious representation. It included a large number of archbishops and Christian church leaders. It also included Islamic leaders, imams, and muftis. The conference is serious about its resolutions, which will be followed up by the committee arising from it. It is a prelude to further steps that should be implemented after the first step has been implemented as regards rescuing Jerusalem and restoring its Arab identity.

Sudan

Sudan: Opposition Regrets al-Bashir Summit Attendance

NC2206124596 Paris AFP in English 1227 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 22 (AFP)— Sudan's opposition National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on Saturday [22 June] denounced President 'Umar al-Bashir's participation in a Arab summit in Egypt.

"We regret to see that Sudan's seat at this historic occasion practically empty because the person who was invited to attend the summit and who claims to be the president of Sudan is only the representative of an illegitimate regime and a minority," the group said in a statement.

It accused al-Bashir's Islamic government of turning Sudan into a "center of (Muslim fundamentalist) terrorism."

"The security services have been implicated in the assassination bid against Egyptian President Husni Mubarak" in June 1995 in Addis Ababa prompting the UN Security Council to impose sanctions on Sudan in May, it said.

"Sudan's participation in the summit is contrary to the summit's key goal to close Arab ranks," the statement added.

Mubarak invited al-Bashir to attend the summit and gave him a bear-hug at a red-carpet welcome Friday at Cairo airport despite Egyptian accusations that Khartoum was involved in the failed assassination bid.

Sudan: Minister Receives French Proposals for G-7 Summit

EA2206190096 Khartoum SUNA in English 1727 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 22 Jun (SUNA) — State minister at the External Relations Ministry, Bishop Gabriel Rorech has received a message from the French Government dealing with France's proposals to the coming summit of the seven leading industrial countries, which is due to be held in Lyon [France] next week. This came during his meeting with the French ambassador to Sudan Saturday [22 June].

The French ambassador said that the proposals include supporting development (?efforts) in the Third World countries. Bishop Rorech expressed Sudan's appreciation to [as received] cooperation between the two countries, affirming Sudan keenness to bolster ties with France in all spheres.

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He also expressed appreciation to France endeavours and concern with peace question in southern Sudan. Rorech briefed the French ambassador on the peace agreement signed by the government and the Equatoria Defence Force led by Dr. Ochang as well as efforts and consultations being exerted by the government with [the] Garang faction in order to reach the aspired peace in the country.

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Bahrain

Bahrain: Explosion Reported Outside Hotel; No Casualties Reported

NC2306195196 Paris AFP in English 1937 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Manama, June 23 (AFP) — An explosion occurred next to a hotel in Manama on Sunday [23 June], without causing any casualties, witnesses said.

The explosion happened at 8:30 p.m. (1730 GMT) and originated in a vehicle with Saudi Arabian license tags located next to the Le Vendome hotel, in the al-Qudaybiyah district of the Bahraini capital.

The four-wheel-drive vehicle was heavily damaged in the explosion, which also damaged the front of a travel agency and a car parked nearby, the witnesses said.

The area was quickly sealed off by police, who began an investigation.

On June 17, a home-made bomb exploded near a car located in one of Manama's main streets, without causing any casualties.

The following day authorities said they had found and disarmed 13 small home-made bombs in various parts of the country. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: France's Millon Arrives for Short, Official Visit

LD2206224696 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2212 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 22 Jun (SPA) — French Defense Minister Charles Millon and an accompanying delegation arrived in Jeddah this evening for a short visit to the kingdom. He was welcomed at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defence and aviation, and inspector-general. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

UAE: Diplomatic Relations Established With Zimbabwe

JN2406111896 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Governments of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and the Republic of Zimbabwe have established diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level effective today, 24 June 1996.

A joint statement issued in Abu Dhabi and Harare said the decision to establish diplomatic relations is based on a joint desire to foster friendly relations and develop bilateral cooperation.

By establishing diplomatic relations with Harare, the UAE now has diplomatic relations with 139 countries.

Yemen

Yemen: Saudi-Yemeni Talks End in 'Major Quarrel'

MM2106154296 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 21 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan: "Yemen Accuses Saudi Arabia of Seizing Its Islands... Tension Approaching Confrontation Stage"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sanaa, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — [passage omitted] Those familiar with matters in Sanaa say that the fifth round of border demarcation talks between Saudi Arabia and Yemen ended with a major quarrel and overwhelming Saudi anger. Each side was supposed to present its view regarding the demarcation of the northern and southern border. The Saudi side submitted its view on the basis of 17th parallel, which is supposed to be the border of the former South Yemen. As for the Yemeni side, it submitted documents saying that Yemen's border should be based on the 23rd parallel, which means that it extends south of al-Ihsa' and includes all the al-Rub' al-Khali desert and half of the Saudi 'Asir province.

The Saudi side considered the Yemeni view insulting and felt that it showed lack of seriousness in the negotiations. The Yemeni side said that either country was entitled to present its own view at the negotiating table without any preconditions.

The other explosive point in relations between the two sides has to do with Yemen's northern border with Saudi Arabia under the al-Ta'if agreement. The committee assigned to deal with this issue managed to secure an agreement on six markings, but failed to secure an agreement on the location of the first marking which begins at the sea. The Saudi side wanted this marking to be placed some 6 km to the south, while the Yemeni side wants it to remain where it is now. But the Saudis — according to the Yemenis' accusation — began to act as though an agreement had been reached, seizing numerous islands, which they supplied with electricity and for which they appointed governors.

Yemeni officials who spoke to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI have expressed their great disappointment at the Saudi attitude toward them. They criticized the "selective"

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manner in which the al-Ta'if accords are applied, saying that Saudi Arabia adopted the clauses it wanted and discarded the rest, especially the Yemeni workers' return to Saudi Arabia and the suspension of financial support for the Yemeni opposition, which is still working to separate and split Yemen and topple the regime.

There is another point that continues to prove a thorn in the side of the already weak relations, namely the Hadhramaut question. There is a belief among Yemeni officials that Saudi Arabia wants to separate Hadhramaut from Yemeni in order to achieve its strategic dream of reaching the Arabian Sea and the open oceans, thereby eliminating the fear of its oil passing through dangerous international waterways such as the Strait of Hormuz, which is under Iran's control; the Suez Canal, which is under Egyptian sovereignty; Bab el Mandib, which is now under Israeli sovereignty through the Eritrean gate; and even Gibraltar, which is under British control.

A senior Yemeni official has told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that the government of the Democratic Yemeni Republic proclaimed, during the secession crisis, to give Saudi Arabia a "corridor," or a passage, 4-km wide across Hadhramaut over which it would have full sovereignty, in return for its support of the secessionist war. However, independent sources have declined to confirm or deny this story. The official said that the Yemeni side has never objected to extending Saudi oil pipelines to Shatt al-'Arab, but it objected totally to the question of Saudi sovereignty over it.

The official said that the Saudi's insistence on the question of sovereignty over the corridor is attributed to their fear that the oil flow through the pipeline might be cut off in the event of a political or military dispute between the two sides. The official said that Yemen tried to eliminate these fears through an agreement to be ratified by the United Nations. In effect, the agreement said that Saudi oil would continue to be pumped through the pipeline under any circumstances. He added that Yemen demanded any Saudi- Yemeni agreement over the pipeline be identical to any Saudi-Iraqi, Iraqi-Turkish, or Iraqi-Syrian agreement, with a guarantee that it would not be affected by any problems or wars between the two sides.

AL-QUDS AL-ARABI has learned that tension in relations between the two sides reached its peak two weeks ago, and that military clashes did take place but there was a blackout. The situation calmed down only after a telephone conversation between Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, [Saudi] deputy prime minister and defense and aviation minister, and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, when the former phoned the latter to express his condolences for the victims of the floods. And also after the agreement to hold a meeting between the Yemeni president and Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz on the periphery of the Arab summit meetings in Cairo today.

The deterioration in relations has been reflected in articles published in the Yemeni press, fiercely criticizing Saudi Arabia. And also in the Saudi Arabian authorities' delay in distributing Yemeni newspapers in Saudi governorates. As a result, the Yemeni authorities did the same to Saudi newspapers.

In an interview with AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has admitted the existence of disagreements, saying that the border demarcation negotiations are proceeding very slowly. He added that Yemen feels that the Saudi side is dealing with the al-Ta'if treaty in a "selective" manner, taking what it wants and discarding what it does not want. The Yemeni president stressed that his country wants to agree on a basis for a swift solution to the border issue, a solution acceptable to both sides, not on the basis of the absolute historic right or the fait accompli policy." The Yemeni president declined to give any details on the "absolute right" or the meaning of "fair accompli." [quotation marks as published]

The Yemeni president accused Saudi Arabia of helping the secessionist elements that fled Yemen, demanding that they be extradited under the treaty and its clauses. He denied that Saudi oppositionist Muhammad al-Mas'ari resided in Yemen, otherwise the government would have extradited him.

Yemen: 19 Killed, 40 Wounded in Recent al-Mukalla Riots

JN2106153396 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 21 Jun 96 p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] As a result of repeated bombings in southern Yemeni cities, particularly in the capital city, Aden, reports say that the public security situation is deteriorating, especially in the south. Reportedly clashes and protests have taken place between citizens and security forces in the Handhramaut Governorate and its capital, al-Mukalla, over the past two weeks. Nineteen people were killed and 40 others wounded during the riots, which began after security men raped two women and after the prosecutor of the Hadhramaut Governorate slandered the governorate's women.

The city of al-Mukalla was closed and the army was deployed after demonstrators burned the cars of two senior members of the two ruling parties, 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abdallah Bakir, member of the Yemeni

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Reform Grouping, and Hasan Salih Ba'um, head of a General People's Congress branch. Security and army forces are still deployed in the city of al-Mukalla to prevent further clashes.

The government politicized the riots by accusing opposition forces abroad of exploding the situation. Opposition circles said that the government resorts to such solutions each time it faces protests in the south as a result of the deteriorating economic situation and provocations by the security forces in most of the southern governorates

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Iraq: Press Reacts to Cairo Summit Final Statement

JN2406091896 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0637 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 June (INA) — The Iraqi papers published here today criticize the Cairo summit statement, describing it as an expression of a very extremist and bad U.S. stand, as well as a response to Clinton's message to some Arab rulers who attended the conference.

In their editorials today, AL-JUMHURIYAH, AL-THAWRAH, and AL-QADISIYAH express deep regret because the results of a pan-Arab meeting and its final statement were identical with the statements made by Clinton and U.S. Secretary of State Christopher. The papers recall Iraq's firm response, through its leader Saddam Husayn, to the U.S. Administration's pressure during the Baghdad summit in March 1990.

The Iraqi papers focus on the stand of the Cairo summit statement vis-a-vis the Arab-Zionist conflict, considering it a weak and subservient submission to the American-Atlantic [NATO]-Zionist alliance. The Iraqi papers also consider the Cairo summit statement a message of humiliation before the Zionist entity's arrogance, complete involvement in the capitulatory settlement of the Palestinian cause, and blatant abandonment of pan-Arab struggle.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that the Cairo statement adopted the worst things in the Zionist, American, and Saudi stands toward the Iraqi people. In its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the statement's stance on Iraq constitutes a candid acknowledgement that those who imposed and accepted it agree to the policy of annihilating millions of Iraqis and exposing those who are still alive to unlimited suffering.

Commenting on the subject of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees, the paper says that mentioning this is in itself considered official bias by the summit toward the rulers of Kuwait in a suspect issue, which — as it has now become clear — aims at obstructing the lifting of sanctions on the Iraqi people when the date for this comes closer.

The newspaper says the summit should have adopted a neutral or compromise position based on searching for a way out of, or a solution to, this allegation. The paper opined supporting the Iraqi proposal that calls for the formation of an Arab League committee to investigate the subject, or backing the continuous contacts between Iraq, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Kuwait, which aim at finding the missing persons.

AL-JUMHURIYAH emphasizes that the Cairo summit's final statement constitutes a free service to those who want to annihilate millions of Iraqis, because this statement will be exploited to support the charges leveled against Iraq, in the same way war criminal George Bush used the 1990 Cairo summit resolutions to justify war against Iraq and to issue unfair Security Council resolutions.

The paper says that charging the Iraqi Government with the suffering of the Iraqi people absolves the United States of annihilating 1.25 million Iraqis. This will encourage the United States to continue its annihilation crimes against the Iraqi people while providing an Arab cover for all this.

AL-JUMHURIYIAH compares the positions of the Cairo summit states with the positions of a number of foreign countries, some of which took part in the aggression against Iraq, such as France. It says France is more sympathetic toward the Iraqi people's suffering and their causes than the Arabs of the Cairo summit.

The paper adds that France, Russia, China, and other non-Arab countries such as Indonesia, Pakistan, India, and even Turkey demanded reciprocating the Iraqi Government's cooperation with the Security Council by lifting the economic blockade on it. The overwhelming majority of foreign countries do not hold the Iraqi Government responsible for the continued suffering of the Iraqi people. These countries raised their voices and called directly and indirectly for ending the double-standard toward Iraq and the suffering of the Iraqis, and responding to the Iraqi Government's cooperation.

The newspaper says the only governments that held the Iraqi Government responsible for the suffering are the governments of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United States, and the Zionist entity.

AL-THAWRAH notes that the general framework of the Cairo summit's final statement was identical with the policies and steps that the U.S. President and his secretary of state advised the conferees to adopt. The statement asserts continued efforts to please the Zionist entity and firm commitment to the steps agreed on with this entity.

The newspaper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says the outcome of the Cairo summit reminds us of the saying: "A mountain in labor gave birth to a mouse." This mouse was even terrified and sought to flee under the pressure of threats made by Clinton and his administration before the summit was convened. America said it would not allow the summit to try to come out of the abyss or to think about healing the Arab rift.

The paper concludes that the outcome of this summit will not have any effect on the national and pan-

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Arab stand of the Iraqis under the historic leadership of President Saddam Husayn. This is because the Iraqis have advanced steadily toward their own summit through their unceasing efforts, to assert to the whole world that they will achieve victory.

AL-QADISIYAH says the Cairo summit is a renunciation of Arab stands. The conference was called in haste on the pretext of facing the developments in the Zionist entity and Netanyahu's victory and on the pretext of Arab reconciliation, clearing the Arab atmosphere, and achieving Arab solidarity. The conference, however, revealed its true intentions when it did not invite Iraq. This was an odious position, a departure from the Arab League Charter, and a disavowal of the simplest requirements of joint Arab action. In addition, this violation is a flagrant stab to the self-evident rules of allegiance to a unified Arab nation.

The paper stresses that excluding Iraq from the summit did great harm to the national security of the Arab nation and reflected serious persistence in following a divisive policy. The summit was also a serious action to weaken the Arab nation by excluding its major influential forces, primarily Iraq.

AL-QADISIYAH reviews the results of the summit, as stated in the final communique. The paper says the results confirmed that excluding Iraq was cooked in advance to undermine its positions. The paper underlines the exposed U.S. ideas which exist in the paragraphs and drafting of the final statement and the clear influence of the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers on the statement. The first draft of the declared communique, which some Arab foreign ministers on the drafting committee know about, was amended and changed.

The paper regrets the statement's bad stands and false expressions. The communique is full of bad words and fabrications when it talks about so-called "Iraq's aggressive policy toward its neighbors." It also adopts the arguments of the rulers of Kuwait on the alleged "prisoners and detainees." The statement also absurdly blames the Iraqi Government for the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Iraq: Talks With UN Special Commission Resume

JN2106182496 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1753 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 June (INA) — Iraq and the UN Special Commission resumed talks today. The Iraqi delegation was headed by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and the Special Commission delegation was headed by Rolf Ekeus.

The talks were attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Oil Minister Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, Presidential Office adviser Lieutenant General 'Amir al-Sa'di, Military Industrialization Organization Director Dayf 'Abd-la-Majid, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Riyad al-Qaysi, and several specialists from the Foreign Ministry and the Military Industrialization Organization.

The Iraqi delegation and the UN Special Commission held several technical sessions last night.

Iraq: Agreement Reached With UN on Inspection of All Sites

NC2206112896 Paris AFP in English
1128 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, June 22 (AFP) — Iraq and the United Nations reached an agreement on Saturday [22 June] on the inspection of all Iraqi military sites, officials from both sides said.

Iraq: Joint Statement, Working Plan Signed With UN Commission

JN2206114096 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1127 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 June (INA) — Iraq and the UN Special Commission signed a joint statement and a working plan at the end of intensive talks that dealt with all issues of concern between the two sides. Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, under secretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, announced this at a joint news conference with Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the Special Commission, at the Foreign Ministry today.

Iraq, UN Arrive at Joint Statement

JN2206183796 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1700 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 June (INA) — Iraq and the UN Special Commission [UNSCOM] adopted a joint statement and a working plan at the end of intensive talks that dealt with all issues of concern to the two sides.

This was announced at a joint news conference held by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Riyad al-Qaysi and UNSCOM Chairman Rolf Ekeus at the Foreign Ministry today. The conference was attended by correspondents of Arab and foreign newspapers and news agencies, INA, and the local papers.

Dr. al-Qaysi said the working plan includes all the necessary measures that would enable the UNSCOM to present a report to the Security Council as soon as possible saying that Iraq fulfilled its obligations in

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accordance with Section C of Resolution 687. Dr. al-Qaysi said the dialogue was permeated by a spirit of joint understanding.

Ekeus said the talks he held with the Iraqi side were successful, adding that the working plan takes into consideration Iraq's sovereignty and security. He will brief the Security Council on Iraq's full cooperation with the UNSCOM.

At the conclusion of the news conference, Rolf Ekeus pointed out that he will present a recommendation to the Security Council, that will meet on Monday, [24 June] in which he will note the cooperation that permeated the talks between Iraq and the UNSCOM.

INA learned that the full text of the joint statement will be announced on Monday evening after Ekeus briefs the UN Security Council on the outcome of his talks in Iraq.

Iraq: Report on Jordanian Team's Visit, Stand on Inspections

JN2106173696 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 20 Jun 96 pp 1, 17

[Report by Fu'ad Husayn]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] While the slow traffic on the Amman-Baghdad highway reflects the nature of the current official relations between Jordan and Iraq, the exceptional attention the popular and party delegation was given on both sides of the border reflected the future of these relations. For the first time, the VIP lounge at the Jordanian border post at al-Ruwayshid was opened for a Jordanian popular and party delegation upon departure and arrival, and exceptional facilities were offered to it. [passage omitted]

On the first day of the visit, the delegation met with 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, Iraqi minister of culture and information, who stressed the strong Iraqi-Jordanian relations, especially on the economic level. He indicated that Iraq cannot exclude the al-'Aqabah Port when the oil-for-food agreement is implemented. He said this is not because Iraq needs the al-Aqabah Port, but out of its sense of duty toward the Arab people in Jordan.

'Abd al-Ghafur said that Iraq is upset by the attempts to doubt Iraq's constant stand on Jordan. He said that out of its principles and view of Jordan as part of the Arab nation, Iraq views its relations with Jordan as strategic relations.

The Iraqi information minister said that this assertion is not meant for reassurance or as a courtesy. Rather, he said, it is a constant policy stemming from the strong relationship between the people of Jordan and Iraq and to show gratitude for Jordan's stand on Iraq under all the circumstances it experienced. He remarked that when Iraq discussed with the United Nations the memorandum of understanding on implementing the oil-for-food agreement, Iraq took into consideration how all Arab countries, especially Jordan, could benefit from the implementation of this agreement. He said Iraq believes that the Arab homeland's resources belong to the entire Arab nation, noting that the issue of loss and profit is not taken into consideration in Iraq's imports or exports through Arab countries, although the al-Basrah and Umm Qasr Ports are able to absorb such imports.

In a special meeting with the Jordanian journalists accompanying the delegation, the Iraqi information minister denied knowledge of any agreement signed between Iraq and Qatar to store imports bound for Iraq. He indicated that all Arab ports are of the same importance to Iraq. [passage omitted]

In addition to its meeting with the Iraqi vice president and information minister, the Jordanian delegation met with the ministers of health and trade. Both ministers briefed the delegation on the health and economic situation in Iraq. The Iraqi oil minister apologized for not attending that meeting. A scheduled meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz was canceled because the Iraqi leadership was preoccupied with the growing escalation with UN inspection teams.

Meanwhile, high-level Iraqi sources said that Iraq will not go back on its stand this time whatever the price, for the political leadership has grown convinced that the inspection teams are being used as a pretext to prolong the blockade against Iraq, a situation which must not be allowed to continue.

The Iraqi political leadership does not object at all to the inspection of any site, but a proposal will be submitted to the Security Council this time calling on the United Nations to make a secret list of all the sites that it wants to inspect and to call any number of international inspectors it wants. According to this proposal, a timetable for ending these operations must be set, after which Ekeus would submit a detailed report on those inspections so that it would be possible to move toward the implementation of the paragraph pertaining to lifting the blockade in return for removing the Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

The Iraqi leadership has taken all possibilities into account, including the possibility of a military strike against Iraq. However, Iraq this time is determined to put an end to the policy of procrastination.

Political analysts link this firm Iraqi position to the results of a visit by a ranking Russian delegation, in ad-

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dition to another recent undeclared visit to Iraq by a French delegation. Besides, the current political developments in neighboring states could lead to bolstering the Iraqi position.

Iraq: Oppositionist Claims To Reveal 'Truth' About Iraqi CBW

MM2106132296 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jun 96 p 6

[Report by 'Imad al-Furayh: "Al-Samarra'i Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Iraq in Possession of 200 Military Germ Substances"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former director of Iraqi military intelligence, has revealed additional details concerning Iraqi military activities, especially internationally banned activities. He stressed that the Iraqi regime is in possession of 200 military germ substances [maddah jurthumiyah 'askariyah], in addition to scores of surface-to-surface missiles in the prohibited range.

The former Iraqi official revealed the means used by Iraqi authorities to conceal the documents, saying that tanks and personnel carriers are used in this connection. Maj. Gen. al-Samarra'i, leader of the Iraqi National Movement, said that the regime in Iraq has fabricated another quarrel to obstruct the search for the prohibited weapons on the pretext that inspection operations are designed to spy on the Iraqi military.

Al-Samarra'i told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's bureau in Amman yesterday that some people want the tyranny and oppression to continue in Iraq so that it will remain in the whirlpool of instability and collapse. They hope to win big oil and trade contacts for their companies and, therefore, say that there is no justification for allowing the inspection teams access to certain sites, since Iraq is sparing no efforts to cooperate with the UN Security Council.

The former chief of Iraqi military intelligence, in his statement to AL- SHARQ AL-AWSAT, revealed secrets concerning the Iraqi military industry, "to reveal the truth." He pointed out that the Iraqi regime has the biggest technological capability to manufacture deadly chemical and germ substances outside the five big powers. And that Iraq has for four consecutive years concealed, and denied the presence of any information about its germ [warfare] capability.

Al-Samarra'i admitted that in January 1995, when Ekeus was in Baghdad, at the moment when the situation reached a dangerous point regarding the possibility of easing the pressure on the regime, and in the line of what can be termed cooperation with the commission assigned to dismantle the mass destruction weapons, he wrote an open letter stressing the regime's possession of germ weapons, long-range missiles, and chemical weapons, and that the regime was hiding the documents in the employees' homes.

Al-Samarra'i said: "I was certain that the regime was in possession of 200 germ substances and scores of prohibited surface-to-surface missiles. And the regime had to admit its possession of the number of missiles revealed by us, claiming, however, that it had destroyed them a few months after the end of the second Gulf war."

The former chief of Iraqi military intelligence, who was President Saddam Husayn's adviser before he fled Baghdad and formed an Iraqi oppositionist movement, said that "we Iraqis are aware of the regime's deception, evasion tactics, and lack of credibility, because we dealt with it closely, and our comrades in the country are still watching everything." He added: "While the world is waiting for the regime to respond to the international resolutions, some people might be astonished at our revelation of reliable information which we received recently, namely that the number of germ containers [hawiyah] has increased from 200 to 255, in addition to 40 'al-Husayn' missiles, 25 of them in a disassembled form."

Al-Samarra'i announced that most of the documents are kept in the Republican Palace — these are the very important documents — and also in the camps of the Special Guard and the Republican Guard. He pointed out that "we have reliable information about persons in whose homes some documents were kept, and these documents are moved from one place to another. Some documents are also kept in tanks and armored personnel carriers."

He stressed that inspecting a camp, a site, or an installation does not mean that the site is cleared [of suspicion], "as the regime could go back and hide substances or documents there," and that "the Iraqi regime will not abandon its plans, because without them it cannot create big problems."

Justifying his revealing this information, al-Samarra'i said: "Some people might say, why is the Iraqi opposition revealing or helping to reveal the existence of prohibited weapons which belong to Iraq and the Arabs? Although we do not need to reply to such a question, it is useful to clarify numerous facts. I state that, despite Iraq's possession of germ weapons sufficient to destroy Israel, it has not been able to fire a single cubic centimeter of the chemical weapons, because the regime knows what the retaliation will be like." He stressed that "the reference to Israel is just an example."

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Al-Samarra'i said that the Iraqi president will use the prohibited weapons against the Iraqi people only. "And as our conflict with Saddam is a matter of life and death, it is wise [to ensure] that none of these weapons remain in the regime's hands. It is in our historic and national interests to use all methods to exert real pressure toward helping topple Saddam's regime. Because as far as we are concerned, its collapse is more important than all the weapons, which have brought Iraq nothing but disasters and destruction."

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Israel: Netanyahu Bureau Reacts 'Quite Sharply' to Cairo Communique

TA2306160496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 23 Jun 96

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[FBIS Translated Text] I will read the reaction issued by the prime minister's bureau to the communique issued at the Cairo summit and then expand on it. In the announcement, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu says: Unilateral demands which harm security are incompatible with peace talks.

Prime Minister Netanyahu's reaction is very similar to that issued by Foreign Minister David Levi. The two conferred privately earlier. The reaction issued by the prime minister's bureau also says: For the process to continue in a successful and fruitful manner, such demands must be avoided.

Israel, in fact, is responding quite sharply to the Cairo summit resolution. The announcement in full says: Peace is the strategic aim of Israel and the Arab states. The peace process must proceed without preconditions. Peace negotiations must be conditional to security for all the peoples of the region, and — now comes the most important part — unilateral demands which harm security are incompatible with talks toward peace. For the process to continue in a successful and fruitful manner, such demands must be avoided. This is the most fundamental demand for talks on coexistence toward peace.

This is the first official reaction to the Cairo summit from the prime minister's bureau. The prime minister will make a detailed response in his own voice in a speech in Qiryat Gat tonight.

Israel: Levi on Arab Summit, 'Concessions' on Golan

TA2106195296 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Jun 96

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by anchormen Gadi Sukenik and 'Imanu'el Rosen in the studio on 21 June — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Rosen] Good evening, Foreign Minister David Levi.

[Levi] Good evening.

[Rosen] Is it true that you will probably be the first minister in the new government who will have to shake hands with Yasir 'Arafat?

[Levi] One can assume as much, should the other party uphold its commitments. We have no other partner. Not that we looked for other partners, but this is the situation.

[Rosen] Will shaking hands with 'Arafat be a difficult moment?

[Levi] Look, it is the goal that is important. If the goal is peace, then one overcomes barriers and obstacles while creating understandings for the benefit of one's country and people.

[Sukenik] Mr. Levi, I believe you also agree that 'Arafat is Israel's most important partner in the peace process at the moment.

[Levi] I do not know if 'Arafat is the most important, but the situation, as they say, is that there is no alternative to him. He was elected. There is a Palestinian Authority [PA]. We intend to make progress toward peace, and we will talk to him.

[Sukenik] But you and Prime Minister Netanyahu have held phone conversations with all the other partners except for 'Arafat.

[Levi] Some things require preparations. We are currently engaged in these preparations. Everything will happen at the right time and place. If it is up to us, the peace process will not get stuck. As this also depends on the other side, it must uphold its commitments as well and create the basis for a dialogue in order to promote peace.

[Sukenik] So you will be speaking to 'Arafat soon?

[Levi] We will talk to him.

[Rosen] Mr. Foreign Minister, the representatives of the Arab states are convening in Cairo today. There is a great deal of concern with regard to the future of the peace process. The prime minister said he is not scared by threats. Beyond such tough talk, however, is there any way to reassure the Arabs? Can you think of such a way?

[Levi] First of all, there is no reason for this tension. In my opinion, it is artificial. The Israeli people made their decision. A government was elected by democratic means. From the very first day, this government declared that it views the achievement of peace as a supreme goal. Therefore, it is really difficult to understand why the entire Arab world is meeting at Syria's initiative. I would really like to issue a warning, and not because we seek to frighten anybody but rather in order to say: Do not attempt to scare us. The dialogue toward peace must take place in a calm atmosphere. You have not even granted the government a week in which to get itself organized. You are already convening. There has been no dialogue. A messenger was not even sent

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to clarify things and examine where the government is heading. This is happening while we constantly repeat that we want to honor the agreements and make progress toward peace on all fronts, including with the PA. Therefore, there is no reason for this. The whole thing may actually, God forbid, serve certain circles that also threaten the moderate Arab states.

[Sukenik] Let us look at the central issues facing both Israel and the Arab world. You have just returned from a discussion on the future of Hebron. Will the government evacuate Hebron as agreed?

[Levi] It is not like that. This government will first examine the ramifications of such a move and its weak spots, as well as the extent to which we can find the synthesis that will both resolve our problems and facilitate progress toward peace.

[Sukenik] Is there a possibility that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will not redeploy in Hebron or will not abide by the agreement?

[Levi] While I am in favor of keeping agreements, I am also opposed to moving forward blindly. Therefore, each party must be aware of the other side's difficulties. We will operate within these parallel lines out of mutual respect in a sincere attempt to move toward peace.

[Rosen] But there is another problem: Before the elections, the prime minister publicly pledged that a government led by him would not withdraw from Hebron.

[Levi] I think there is some confusion here. No one is talking about evacuating the Jewish community from Hebron. The issue is the IDF redeployment.

[Rosen] But the prime minister said that the agreement was no good and that he wanted to put it off until the permanent arrangement. He made a commitment to this effect prior to the elections.

[Levi] We will carefully examine the possible negative effects of redeployment. We will conduct a dialogue with the PA, and we will find a solution together. If both parties want to make progress toward peace, then Israel is interested in doing so.

[Sukenik] The Likud said it would close the Palestinian Orient House in Jerusalem. Will you indeed shut it down?

[Levi] Do you think you can press a button and I will answer your questions? Everything must be examined. Is Orient House a political institution belonging to the PA? The PA made a commitment in writing not to engage in any activity in Jerusalem. This issue must be cleared up with the PA.

[Sukenik] If we are already talking about concessions, then what about Syria? I assume that one of your government's major short-term goals will be to resume the talks with Syria.

[Levi] That is correct.

[Sukenik] Mr. Levi, what will you offer the Syrians?

[Levi] Negotiations without any preconditions. If the Syrians think that in order to talk to us, Israel must first agree to carry out a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights, then they do not want peace. That is not a strategy of peace; it is an attempt to force Israel to capitulate. Similarly, we cannot demand that Damascus accept our positions as a precondition for any negotiations. Each party has a position which it has the right to present at the talks. Each party may adhere to its positions and even believe that it will convince the other side to accept them. The only way to find out is to enter negotiations. If both parties want peace and view peace as being in their interests, then they will meet halfway.

[Rosen] The Syrian position is very clear. The stand adopted by the previous government was also unambiguous: readiness for withdrawal....

[Levi, interrupting] Did you understand that? I did not understand the position of the previous government at all.

[Rosen] I understood their position to be a readiness to withdraw to the international border.

[Levi] I never heard that.

[Rosen] What is your position? Is a compromise possible on the Golan Heights?

[Levi] I do not have a private viewpoint. Ask me about the government position.

[Rosen] Can Israel reach a compromise on the Golan Heights or concede territory there?

[Levi] I am against surrendering to any dictates to withdraw from the Golan Heights. I am opposed to one side's insisting that the other accept its positions as a precondition for negotiations. I believe that if peace serves the interests of both parties and they regard it as a supreme interest, they will meet each other halfway.

[Sukenik] But you are not ruling out a compromise on some point on the Golan Heights?

[Levi] Not on some point, but only if that will bring us peace.

[Sukenik] You are talking about a compromise on the Golan Heights?

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[Levi] Israel will not pull out of the Heights as a precondition for talks nor will we withdraw from the Golan. Everyone knows, and I would like to reiterate....

[Sukenik, interrupting] Perhaps from part of the Golan Heights?

[Levi] Are you giving me some kind of test? I reiterate that if the other side truly wants to achieve real peace — with all that this implies — and sits down to negotiate with us without setting any preconditions, and if both parties want peace, then we will meet halfway.

[Rosen] Are there any security arrangements that can substitute for territory?

[Levi] Do you really think that this is the appropriate forum to draw maps or borderlines?

[Sukenik] No, I am not referring to the precise geographical points. The point is whether you are prepared to accept cosmetic or other territorial concessions on the Golan.

[Levi] I do not want to discuss cosmetics. If peace requires what you refer to as modifications, then I support it, if it ultimately brings us peace.

[Sukenik] That is interesting.

[Levi] Come and negotiate with us. I have no doubt that if both sides desire peace, we will meet each other halfway.

[Rosen] Mr. Levi, lets leave the high ground of the Golan for the hard surface of political realities. You are in the government while Ari'el Sharon is out, and there does not seem to be any solution in the offing. What is happening?

[Levi] I expect an imminent solution, because people are hard at work on this. There is also a commitment from the prime minister, who very much wanted to resolve this issue. He found himself in a difficult situation. I believe I behaved correctly. The prime minister categorically informed the Knesset about the intention to establish a ministry that would incorporate the fields mentioned in the prime minister's communique. Ari'el Sharon has also submitted his own proposals. People at the prime minister's bureau are busy examining this problem in order to bring Sharon into the cabinet. I believe he has earned his place there and is capable of contributing to the government and helping it deal with the challenges that lie ahead.

[Sukenik] What if things do not work out and he stays outside the cabinet? Is there still a chance that you will join him? You said that one does not abandon a friend, but how far will you go?

[Levi] Well, if a solution had not been found that evening and if the prime minister had not come out with his agreed-upon announcement, I would not have joined the cabinet.

[Sukenik] But what happens if Sharon stays outside even after this move?

[Levi] I hope he will join the cabinet, and I will do everything to convince both parties to bridge their differences so that Sharon can enter the government That is were he belongs.

[Rosen] But Mr. Levi, why should Netanyahu be forced into such a solution? Don't you think that the prime minister's behavior toward Sharon was wrong and even a bit ungrateful?

[Levi] I prefer to avoid using such terms. A solution must be found. Sharon is not a problem. A problem has emerged, but Sharon is not the problem. He contributed....

[Rosen, interrupting] But someone created the problem?

[Levi] Do you want me to start getting evasive now? No, I will not whitewash anything. There were difficulties, and several mistakes were made. That is no reason to leave things up to fate. Sharon is currently outside the government, but he will join the cabinet because that is where he belongs. We will do everything to get him there.

[Sukenik] Thank you, Foreign Minister Levi.

Israel: Egyptian Envoy Basyuni, Levi Discuss Peace, 'Arafat Meeting

NC2106154696 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 21 Jun (MENA)— Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni met with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi today. The Egyptian envoy told Levi that the Israeli Government's announcement of its eagerness to resume the peace negotiations without preconditions is not enough. The ambassador added that he emphasized to the Israeli foreign minister the need for the Israeli Government to respect the points of reference for these negotiations based on international legitimacy, namely the Madrid Conference and the land-for-peace principle. In a statement to MENA, the Egyptian ambassador said that he stressed the importance of a meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. Minister Levi approved of this proposal.

Basyuni added that during his meeting with Levi he sensed that the Israeli Government has a genuine

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desire to preserve peace, adding: We have to test this commitment in practice, like the withdrawal from Hebron, the release of Palestinian detainees, and the end of the blockade imposed on the Palestinian territories.

On the Israeli Government program, which raised doubts of the Arab parties, Ambassador Basyuni said the [Israeli] Government's programs are only a declaration of intentions, not laws or decisions. He recalled that [late Israeli Prime Minister] Rabin's government was opposed to the recognition of the PLO. Likewise, [late Israeli Prime Minister] Begin's 1977 government was opposed to the Camp David Accords. He added that the important thing is what goes on in practice. Basyuni said the strong opposition inside the Knesset will support Netanyahu if he moves toward a comprehensive and just peace.

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Jordan: Leadership Calls Cairo Summit 'True Success'

JN2406083396 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Jun 96 pp 1, 7

[Report by George Hawatmah]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Except for failing to achieve a breakthrough in relations with Kuwait the Arab Summit conference which concluded in Cairo yesterday gave Jordan everything it wanted and more, and on this basis it is being considered by the Jordanian leadership a "true success."

His Majesty King Husayn described the summit yesterday as a "new beginning" for joint Arab work and a "clear message... that there will be a greater measure of cooperation among all Arab countries for the sake of confronting the challenges of the future."

In explaining the King's satisfaction with the deliberations and outcome of the summit the prime minister, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, referred to the resolutions adopted by the Arab leaders and to the language used in the final communique.

The fact that this was the first time that the Arab heads of state or their representatives have met in six years is in itself an achievement and a fresh start for Arab solidarity and coordination, Mr. al-Kabariti said. "Since his Majesty and Jordan have always been in the forefront of those who strive for bringing the Arabs together, and encouraging them to work and build together, we regard the summit as an important step towards achieving that goal."

In addition, the prime minister went on to say, it was the first time that an Arab summit gave its blessing and support for the peace process with Israel, including the Jordan-Israel treaty and the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. "This is an institutional support whose value cannot be over-emphasised," Mr. al-Kabariti told Jordanian newspaper editors who covered the summit. "Besides, the Arab leaders expressed no opposition to 'normalisation,' as expectations for the conference went before its convening, unless Israel renounced its commitments under the peace agreements" which the former Labour government made with the Palestinians.

"Even the Libyan leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi put his signature to these resolutions, which is in itself a breakthrough," the prime minister said.

Thus the summit left the door wide open for the new Israeli administration not only to live up to its obligations but also to reach accords with Syria and Lebanon based on the principle of exchanging land for peace, the prime minister said. Jordan in fact believes that Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will respect Israel's commitments under the Oslo deals and he will work for peace both "because he told us he would," as a senior official put it, and just as importantly because there is no alternative for the peace option in the region, as the King told journalists yesterday.

The Arab summit has "convened its own message," King Husayn told the journalists, in allusion to the fact that the moderate Arab camp led by Egypt and Jordan had won the day is not closing door to or complicating further efforts in Arab-Israeli peace-making.

As to improving strained ties with the Syrians, "we are hopeful and confident that the two meetings His Majesty had with President al-Asad on Saturday [22 June] (in the formal one in the morning and over dinner in the evening) and the renewal of their excellent personal relationship, will clear the atmosphere between us," the prime minister said. "The Syrians have expressed readiness to solve outstanding problems, especially the question of the infiltration of Syria-based terrorist groups into Jordan and elsewhere, and we are willing to work with them on this score," Mr. al-Kabariti said. "For now we are encouraged by the fact that the two leaders have met and talked after two years of estrangement and many failed attempts to reconcile differences."

The prime minister did not divulge the response by Mr. al-Asad to the file on tens of attempted or planned terrorist attacks against targets in Jordan which the King handed over to the Syrian president during their first meeting just before the opening of the summit on Saturday. But according to other Jordanian officials, the Syrians were still insisting that they had no knowledge of Syria-based extremist groups who were trying to destabilise Jordan, nor they were unlikely to act on Jordanian protest before President al-Asad had expressed a political will to improve relations with Jordan.

"Following Saturday's meetings, which were facilitated by President Mubarak, we expect to see some change in Syrian attitudes towards us," Mr. al-Kabariti said. "We told them (the Syrians) in no uncertain terms that Jordan will tolerate no 'field' operations against our stability and interests. They can criticise or even attack our policies in the media, but nobody will be allowed to tamper with our security. This much was made abundantly clear."

The King struck a reconciliatory note on this issue in his remarks to the press on Sunday. PETRA, the official news agency, quoted him as saying, "I believe that the Syrian leadership at the highest level will take the necessary measures to prevent such operations in the future."

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The fact that the summit issued a condemnation of terrorism, and even mentioned Iran by name as far as destabilisation attempts in Bahrain and elsewhere were concerned, is another testimony to the success of the conference and the role Jordan played in it, Jordanian officials said, citing the overwhelming support this resolution received from Arab countries, whether from the Gulf or the Maghreb.

Likewise with Turkey, Syria had advocated that the summit take steps to support Damascus in its dispute with Ankara over the Euphrates River and the military pact that Turkey has signed with Israel. But due to Jordanian and Other Arab states' insistence the conference ended up adopting a diplomatically-worded resolution that "hoped the traditional relations and joint Arab-Turkey interests will continue, and in this respect, (the Arab leaders) voiced concerned regarding the Turkish-Israeli military agreement and call on Turkey to reconsider this agreement to avoid anything that would affect the security of the Arab countries."

In the exchange of words that Mr. al-Kabariti had with the Syrian foreign minister, Faruq al-Shar', a day before the opening of the conference, the prime minister insisted that Syria reach agreement on water-sharing with Jordan (over the Yarmuk River) according to well-defined principles so that the Arab World could support Damascus in its water-sharing problems with Ankara according to the same principles.

"The respect and depth of feelings and support Arab leaders showed His Majesty during the conference itself and in bilateral meetings gave Jordan an important boost in achieving the diplomatic success that we managed to reflect in the communique," the prime minister said. "As it turned out, this respect, coupled with the realistic and reasonable policies that Jordan has adopted and defended in concert with moderate and like-minded Arab countries, prevented the summit conference from being hijacked by any single party or unilateral demands. Except for the behaviour of Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah (the Kuwaiti crown prince who headed his country's delegation) who was not ready to meet in Cairo with the leaders of those countries whom he perceived to side with Iraq during the Gulf crisis, including Jordan, we consider the summit a total success by any standard."

Jordan: Paper on Secrets of Syrian 'Terrorism' Against Jordan

JN2306184396 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic 24 Jun 96 p 10

[Report by Nidal Mansur in Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian-Syrian conflict dominated the atmosphere of the Arab summit. The Jordanians felt that the Syrians wanted to dictate the agenda of the summit. This is why the Jordanians moved to obtain the support of Gulf states and Morocco. For the first time, according to a senior Jordanian official, there was semi consensus to support the Jordanians. The official attributes this support to the fact that Syria has been trying to win the best of the two worlds.

The Syrians want the Arabs, particularly the Jordanians and Palestinians, to freeze negotiations and normalization with Israel. They also sought Arab support in their water conflict with Turkey. This request was not supported by Jordan, nor even by Egypt, which — according to a Jordanian official — is coordinating with Jordan from under the table. This is why Jordan was waving the file of terrorism in Syria's face.

Well-informed Jordanian sources revealed that Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa exerted great efforts to prevent the situation from exploding during the foreign ministers' meeting and asked Prime minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti not to bring up any bones of contention.

The sources said that al-Kabariti agreed not to say anything if the Syrians would do the same. However, things did not go according to the Egyptians' wishes. During the foreign ministers' meeting, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' spoke about the good relations between Syria and the Jordanian people and ignored mentioning the Jordanian Government. Al-Shar' also said that the Jordanian people oppose the peace process and normalization with Israel, implying that they were forced to accept the measures taken by their government. Al-Shar' asked the Arabs to extend help and support to Syria against the Turkish threats regarding the water issue.

Al-Kabariti then asked to speak. He said that Jordan too enjoys very good relations with the Syrian people and that he is sure that they would not approve of Syria exercising and supporting terrorism against Arab states, including Jordan. He said that Jordan is prepared to support Syria's demand for the return of the Golan, but does not support straining relations with Turkey, which is a Muslim state. This does not prevent Syria from reaching an agreement with Turkey on water issues,

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which would eventually form the bases for a Syrian-Jordanian understating on water rights.

According to a Jordanian minister who preferred anonymity, what al-Kabariti said provoked al-Shar' and prompted him to protest. But the Egyptian foreign minister blamed al-Shar' because it was he who began and gave al-Kabariti a reason to use the same tone.

It seems that the issue of terrorism was a source of anxiety for the Syrians, particularly since more than one Jordanian official warned that they have a "black file" containing information on terrorist operations against Jordan coming from the Syrian border. These operations were intended to be carried out by Palestinian organizations that are known for their strong links with the Syrian Government.

In this respect, Jordanian Government sources said that his majesty the king handed a copy of this file to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and another to the Syrian president during the meeting the three held. The file was prepared by the director of intelligence who accompanied his majesty.

A government minister said there were 56 terrorist incidents against Jordan, not 36 as has been mentioned. The minister, who declined to be named, said that large quantities of weapons and explosives have been seized over the past months, and that there was a plan to assassinate Crown Prince Hasan with the use of a car bomb, but that this plan was exposed at the last moment.

The minister also said that there was another plan was to bomb tourist buses in Petra. Those who intended to carry out this operation had been under police surveillance. They had rented a house in Petra for monitoring purposes and as a cache for weapons and explosives. If this operation had been carried out, it would have harmed about 1,000 tourists traveling in 14 buses in Petra.

The minister said that those who support terrorism are now more inclined to form new small groups to minimize the risk of their being exposed and to gain more money. The minister specifically referred to the Palestinian Hizballah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, under Ahmad Jibril.

The minister said that the security bodies have evidence on 14 journalists who receive money from Arab and non Arab countries. The question now is whether or not the file the government calls the file of the terrorism that comes from Syria has been closed in the wake of the Husayn-al-Asad meeting. This will be revealed in the coming days.

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Lebanon: Al-Hirawi Returns From Summit, Comments on U.S. Veto at UN

NC2306174296 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Ilyas al-Hirawi returned to Beirut at 1730 [1430 GMT] today after attending the Arab summit of solidarity and cohesion in Cairo. On the plane, President al-Hirawi evaluated the results of the summit.

[Begin recording] [Al-Hirawi] First, I believe the biggest winner at the summit is Syria. At one point in time, Syria was seen as isolated from the Arab world. This expanded summit was a result of the trilateral summit in Damascus. The second winner was Egypt, as it attracted all the Arab leaders to the summit. The third winner — as demonstrated publicly or in the closed sessions of the summit — was Lebanon. Lebanon, in light of the Israeli attacks against it in April, figured high in the statements of those who spoke on behalf of their countries. [passage omitted]

Out of concern for the dignity of UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, who supported Lebanon and referred to the Security Council the final report on the Qana massacre, I made remarks in his favor at the last session. I heard that after the Qana report, there was a U.S. veto against Butrus Butrus-Ghali. The Americans repeat that they have many things against him. But I believe that despite all the support for Butrus-Ghali by African, Arab, or even European countries — and I heard much about this yesterday — the U.S. veto in the Security Council still holds. This pains me; telling the truth hurts some, especially the big countries. Hence my position at the session. I hoped the conferees would take a position in support of Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, [words indistinct].

[Al-Hirawi] I heard things here and there. The session was closed, and I cannot say who was for and who was against my proposal. Some were for it; others left it to time and said they would work hard with the United States to retract this veto. May God grant them success. But I, as a Lebanese, want to be fair when I speak in the name of the Lebanese people and Government: Lebanon cannot but support Butrus Butrus-Ghali and thank him for all his positions. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Lebanon: Al-Hariri Sees Stronger Country After 'Aggression'

NC2406085596 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The second conference on Arab capital markets opened in the Summerland Hotel at 1000 today. Some 360 financiers, businessmen, and investors, including Arab ministers, are taking part.

Addressing the conference, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri said Lebanon has emerged from the recent Israeli aggression stronger than before, noting the national unity apparent during the aggression.

He emphasized that Lebanon is a stable country with a clear political status. He said: We have elections ahead of us and hope they will be held as scheduled. As far as Lebanon is concerned, he said, peace is a strategic decision.

Lebanon: Israeli Shelling, Overflights, Torture of Detainees Cited

NC2406080696 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli acts of aggression in the south and Western al-Biqa' continued in the past few hours. Israeli forces shelled several locations and raked areas around their positions inside the occupied border strip, namely, around the Hula post. This was accompanied by intense flights by Israeli aircraft, at times reaching the capital and its suburbs.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY reports that the Israeli authorities in charge of al-Khiyam Prison recently stepped up their arbitrary, oppressive psychological practices against Lebanese detainees at the prison. The agency says the detainees are experiencing a terrible tragedy because of the Israeli-Lahdist criminal acts and brutal means of physical and psychological torture against them. Among them is detainee Mahmud Muhammad Ramadan, 30, from the occupied town of Yarin, who has been in jail for eight years. He went mad because of Israeli torture and terrorism. His eye was gouged out and his right leg and hand were severed when he tried to escape from al-Khiyam in 1993. Since then Ramadan has been in solitary confinement.

The enemy and his Agents' arbitrary measures have caused neural and physical diseases to scores of detainees. Among them is detainee Mas'ud abu-Hadlah, whose hand is paralyzed. Most medical reports are consistent that the majority of detainees are suffering from diseases, such as weak eyesight, neural tension, chest infections, amnesia, arthritis, ulcers, and arteriosclerosis.

Lebanon: 'Islamic Resistance' Attacks SLA Post

NC2006194096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In retaliation for continuing Israeli attacks on peaceful villages and towns in the

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south and the western al-Biqa', the Islamic Resistance has launched an attack with rockets and machine guns on the agent Lahd militia post [South Lebanese Army] in Taw'amat Niha along the western al-Biqa' axis. Clashes raged between the Resistance and the garrison. In the meantime, the Israeli enemy's artillery was directing an artillery barrage at the liberated areas from positions in Tallat al-Shurayqah and al- Ahmadiyah inside the occupied border strip. The shelling reached the southern approach to Mashgharah and the outskirts of 'Ayn al-Tinah. So far, more than 40 shells have landed in these areas, causing fires in the groves and orchards.

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Syria: 'Significant' Resolutions of Arab Summit Reviewed

JN2406145796 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 24 Jun 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The Arab summit in Cairo realized the nation's aspirations for unifying ranks and reviving solidarity and joint action. It produced a unified stand to advance the process of a just and comprehensive peace which requires a full Israeli withdrawal and acknowledgement of the Palestinian rights.

The Arab leaders called for Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan back to 4 June 1967 lines. They also called for withdrawal from all the occupied Palestinian lands, including Jerusalem, and from southern Lebanon and al-Biqa' al-Gharbi. They stressed commitment to the Madrid conference formula, the land-for- peace principle, and international legitimacy Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. They warned that if Israel reneges on the peace process and the obligations, pledges, and agreements that may be reached, the Arabs will rethink all the steps that were taken toward Israel. The Tel Aviv government alone will be responsible for any setback to the peace process.

The Arab leaders asserted that setting up settlements in the occupied territories or bringing in more settlers will be a violation of the Geneva conventions and the framework of the Madrid conference. They made it clear that peace is contingent on full Israeli withdrawal and settlement of the issue of Jerusalem and the question of Palestinian refugees in accordance with their right to repatriation to their homeland. The Arab leaders voiced firm support for Lebanon. They urged Israel to halt its acts of aggression and ratify the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Clearly, these significant pan-Arab resolutions — as well as the steps that will be later taken to activate the role of the Arab League and joint Arab action, and vitalize solidarity — came as a frank response to the new Israeli Government's attempts to disrupt the peace process; shirk its foundations, course, and framework; and disavow the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land- for-peace principle.

Netanyahu's government did not conceal its intention to maintain the Golan and Jerusalem, not to withdraw from southern Lebanon, and to expand settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Arab leaders collectively sent a clear message to Israel and the international community to the effect that there will be absolutely no relinquishment of a single Arab right or a grain of their soil. The message also indicates that the Arabs seek a just and comprehensive peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, provided that the Israeli side adheres to the letter and spirit of these resolutions. In the final analysis, there will never be any peace in the region without Israel's full withdrawal, acknowledgment of the Palestinian people's rights, and consecration of the international law's supremacy. The Arab leaders issued a forthright warning and adopted a firm stand to the effect that if peace in the region is not comprehensive and just, then it should not exist.

Needless to mention, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad played a pivotal role in securing the success of Cairo summit, improving the Arab situation, and adopting these significant resolutions. President al-Asad made such great efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere and reveal the dangers of the continuation of Arab fragmentation. These efforts were crowned with success as they emphasized to the whole world that what the Arabs achieved in the Cairo summit in terms of solidarity and commitment to the principles of a just peace far exceeded all expectations. The Cairo summit asserted that the unity of Arabs is a significant fact, and that the Arabs place higher pan-Arab interests above personal and parochial interests and rush to unify their positions and underscore their rights — which are not subject to relinquishment or compromise.

Syria: Press Assesses Results of Arab Summit

JN2406074996 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0505 GMT 24 Jun 96

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Summit Results, No Loser Among the Arabs," AL-BA'TH says: In light of the results of the Cairo summit — spelled out in the final communique — the summit indeed merited its name. AL-BA'TH says Arab divisions had reached a very painful stage; had greatly damaged the nation's causes; and had weakened the Arabs, individually and collectively.

AL-BA'TH adds: Since the peace realized by some people was distorted and truncated, each step toward this explosive peace led to other steps to strike at Arab relations, poison the Arab atmosphere, and increase disintegration and weakness. Unilateral handling of pan-Arab and national issues proved this approach is not good for those who pursue it or for all the Arabs. It is harmful to pan-Arab issues. However, unified Arab positions on the principles, methods, and requirements of a just and comprehensive peace, which adheres to right and pan-Arab realities, are beneficial to all Arabs and to individual Arab countries.

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AL-BA'TH asks: What was the outcome of this bitter experience of peace over the past years? In other words, do words match deeds? Whatever happened to the commitment to the principles of this initiative and the U.S. letters of assurances and guarantees, in light of what happened on the ground? How was the attitude toward the one who sincerely and honestly cooperated with the peace process, compared to the one who rejected, in writing, the principles of this process in the beginning, and then rejected these principles through maneuvering and procrastination? This side has just said no to the foundations of this process, rejecting the principles on which it was based, primarily land for peace, which was turned into peace for peace, and adding land and security together to its demands, without offering anything.

AL-BA'TH answers: The outcome, as proven by experience, is that the Arabs did not find in this peace process — after the developments that took place in the world and the region — anything to convince them that Israel truly wants a just and comprehensive peace and that the U.S. Administration is serious about achieving a just and comprehensive peace, on the basis of the principles agreed upon between it and the parties to this process.

AL-BA'TH points out that the U.S. Administration was, and still is, biased toward Israel. Is this blind bias a result of the upcoming U.S. elections and the role of the Jewish lobby in these elections? For how long will the Arabs continue to remain hostage to U.S. stands that are captive to the Israeli lobby which allegedly controls the U.S. ballot boxes?

AL-BA'TH asserts that it is high time for the Arabs to comprehend the dimensions of this equation, which has become a puzzle that deprives them of their weight and influence. Is it impossible to counterbalance this equation with another one, which is to achieve a unified Arab position toward their pan-Arab cause? Sound logic dictates that the Arabs give precedence to pan-Arab issues over other issues and that they give top priority to elements of unity, rather than components of disunity. The Arabs should also cooperate because this serves their collective interests. Thus, agreement and joint action will strengthen the position of every Arab and that of the nation.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The Arab summit in Cairo was a response to the requirements of the current Arab situation and the need to quickly address this situation before it is too late. At any rate, there were no losers at the Cairo summit. Also, no one achieved victory over another. All the Arabs were victors, individually and collectively. What is more important is that their just pan-Arab cause should achieve victory by their honest support for it and unanimity on it.

In its editorial under the headline "Good Fruit," TISHRIN comments on the Cairo summit. It says: The great hopes pinned by the Arab masses on the summit were not misplaced. The paper praises the fruitful efforts of Syria and leader al-Asad to revive Arab solidarity and come up with a clear Arab position on the challenges imposed by the Likud's assumption of power in Israel.

TISHRIN reviews the summit's final communique. The communique spoke about efforts to achieve joint Arab action and employ the Arab nation's resources to protect its interests. The communique also referred to the close link between pan-Arab security — which is an integral unit — and the national security of each state. The communique stressed the need to achieve Arab development and implement integral economic and social strategies that enable the Arab nation to deal with the world economic order from a position of equatability with other partners. The summit decided to take specific measures to achieve this purpose.

On the fate of the peace process, especially in light of the victory of the Likud Party and its hard-line allies in Israel, TISHRIN says: The Arab leaders reached a common conviction on the concept of just peace. In accordance with the summit's communique, this peace must be based on the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions.

TISHRIN adds: The Arab leaders expressed support for Lebanon and emphasized its right to resist the Israeli occupation. In the summit's communique, the Arabs asserted that the policy of the new Israeli Government can never lead to peace, and that if Israel truly wants peace, it should reconsider its current approach and unequivocally declare its commitment to the requirements of a just and comprehensive settlement.

TISHRIN concludes: The Arab leaders' emphasis on the requirements of a just peace at the Cairo summit aborted all maneuvers to which Israel and its protectors resorted to mislead the Arabs and play one side off against another. The Netanyahu government is now asked to determine its final stand toward the peace process. The summit defeated Israeli claims that providing security for Israel is the basis of peace. The communique clearly said that a just and comprehensive peace is the real guarantee of security for all the states of the region.

In a commentary headlined "The Cairo Summit," AL-THAWRAH says the summit revived hopes and optimism about the possibility of mending the shattered Arab situation and resuscitating active Arab solidarity,

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which Syria has long advocated on realistic and effective foundations. The results of the Cairo summit stemmed from the groundwork of the Damascus tripartite summit to reach a common Arab stand in the face of developments and changes. The Cairo summit was a successful action of Arab solidarity. The two summits proved to the world that the Arabs adhere to a just and comprehensive peace and are honestly working to achieve it on its familiar foundations.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that achieving peace — which is an Arab and international desire — depends on Israel's response and commitment to these foundations and to the option of real peace, as the Arabs did. The paper concludes: The results of the Cairo summit should be implemented as a binding pan-Arab measure to serve the issues and objectives of Arab struggle of preserving Arab rights, protecting pan-Arab security, and achieving a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the Madrid frame of reference. No one should be allowed to depart from this reference and from the unity of Arab ranks.

Syria: Radio Hails Results of Arab Summit in Cairo

JN2306160296 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1138 GMT 23 Jun 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The Arab summit, which will end today in Cairo, is characterized by the fact that it renewed the Arab citizens' optimism over the possibility of unifying the Arab efforts and gave them confidence in the Arab nation's ability to employ its great resources vis-a-vis all kinds of challenges.

The Arab leaders' meeting, six years after the previous Arab summit, is an important turning point because it demonstrates the Arab awakening that can circumvent marginal matters in favor of substantial issues in the Arabs' life.

The atmosphere of the Cairo summit affirmed the credibility of this Arab awakening. The summit's echoes throughout the Arab Homeland have affirmed the Arab masses' aspiration for closing the Arab ranks and unifying the Arab position. The Arab masses have thus rejoiced at the Arab leaders' meeting in the hope of achieving the best results that will immunize the nation against all possibilities and challenges.

The nations' masses also rejoiced following the Damascus tripartite summit which was attended by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak and His Highness Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. The Damascus summit called for the maximum degrees of solidarity and coordination. This was expressed by President Mubarak in his opening speech at the Arab summit in Cairo yesterday when he called for reuniting the Arabs, clearing the Arab atmosphere, and consolidating solidarity and cooperation among the Arab peoples and countries in a way that conforms to the unity of the objective and destiny and to the grave challenges facing us.

The Arab summit's message has reached the world. It has made clear that we are a nation that does not relinquish its rights but supports peace as a strategic option—peace which secures the rights and dignity of all. We do not call for war or violence. The world, led by the U.S. and Russian cosponsors, are well aware that we support the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy which were the basis for the Madrid conference after which bilateral talks were unleashed.

We still support, and we will continue to support, international legitimacy and a just peace which will return the rights to their owners and provide security to all, stemming from the exchange of land for peace. However, this can only be achieved if Israel also commits itself to the Madrid principles and to the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace. The Arabs have always announced their commitments to these requirements.

If Israel responds to the call of the Arab summit in Cairo, which is the substance of the international call made at Madrid, and if Israel commits itself to the international charters and to the pillars of a just and comprehensive peace which the Madrid conference called for, the sought real peace can be achieved and it can last.

There will be no peace if Israel continues to occupy the Arab territories in the Golan and southern Lebanon and the Palestinian territories. The new Israeli Government and anyone concerned with real peace in the region knows this.

In order for Israel to have security and peace, it should acknowledge that the other parties must also have security and peace. Such security and peace can only be achieved by returning the rights to their owners and by completely removing the occupation in implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. These resolutions were the basis for the Madrid conference and the U.S. initiative which called for exchanging land for peace.

The Arab nation, and all those concerned with security and stability in the region and the world, view with much optimism the results of the Cairo summit. These results will not only be positively reflected in Arab

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solidarity but will also provide further and effective support for the march of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Syria: 'Exceptional Importance' of Cairo Summit Highlighted

JN2406112096 Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 23 Jun 96 p 5

[Editorial by Riyadh al-Zayn: "Revival of joint Arab action"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The outstanding Arab gathering in Cairo is a turning-point in the current state of the region's affairs when the stage the Arab nation has experienced is not only critical but is very grave as extremism and antipeace drive is on the rise in Israel. The new government of Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu openly jeopardises Mideast peace, threatens national Arab security and interest and draws up sinister schemings to impose a full- fledged hegemony on the entire Arab nation.

By all counts, the Cairo summit acquires an exceptional importance under the current grave circumstances, and is a decisive event to enhance Arab solidarity in reaction to Israel's irrational extremism and flagrant arrogance. The summit is in fact a consolidation of joint Arab action in the battle of peace and in defence of Arab rights and interests.

As genuine peace has been the strategic option of the Arabs, the summit is again a demonstration of Arab seriousness about achieving peace based on justice and comprehensiveness and implementation of the international legitimacy resolutions, namely the "land for peace" initiative upon which the Madrid conference was launched in 1991.

The Israeli and their backers should know that extremism and arrogance will not do, and that the policy of perpetuating occupation, expansion and hegemony is eventually a fiasco. This sinister policy will only breed violence and agitation which is certainly not in the interest of any party. Peace cannot be attainable by one party. The Arabs are real peace-seekers, and have positively responded to every international endeavour made to realize the final target of the almost five-year-long peace process. Hence, Tel Aviv must honour the agreed peace obligations and should stand to reason before it is too late. The region is fed up with tension and violence and tolerates no more insecurity and instability. The ball now is in the Israeli court, and unless the arrogant and intransigent stances are changed, Israel will be held responsible for the consequences.

Hopes are pinned on the outcome of the Cairo gathering and on the Arab leaders who have great potentials in hand to protect rights and interests and to safeguard national dignity, and who can live up to the expectations of the Arab people for total liberation, genuine freedom and real progress. The summit is a revival of joint Arab action to write a new bright page in the modern history of the Arabs and to occupy a decent place under the sun.

Syria: Cairo Summit Has 'No Option But To Succeed'

JN2406071796 Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 22 Jun 96 p 5

[Editorial by Hisham Bukhari: "Cairo Summit To Revive Arab Solidarity"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Arab summit meeting called by Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia is convening in Cairo today to discuss two main themes: Arab solidarity and reunion, and the peace process. Although the summit itself is a proof of Arab awakenness, its importance stems from adopting practical decisions which would lay the foundations for a real joint Arab action to support the peace process on the basis of UN resolutions. Almost all the Arab countries pin great hopes on the results of the summit which is expected to draw up a future plan for Arab solidarity and unification and for establishing peace in the region in accordance with the US-peace initiative and the relevant UN resolutions.

As a matter of fact, the Arab summit is being held at the right time, following the election of the new Israeli Prime Minister and the announcement of the government statement which killed every hope for peace in the region. Netanyahu's statement was clear and frank in that the Arabs must accept the Israeli occupation as a "fait accompli" and that peace won't be acceptable unless the Arabs bow to Israeli conditions which ignore Arab rights and lands.

In the past few years, Israel has misused Arab divisions and differences which enabled it to sign peace contracts with some Arab parties. And today, Israel is trying to play the same game to avoid abiding by the peace requirements. But Syria which is aware of all such Israeli tricks, urged the Arabs to sit together for reunion and reviving their solidarity to be able to face the Israeli schemes.

All the Arabs were shocked by Netanyahu's speech which rejected withdrawal from the Golan and Jerusalem and called for intensifying Jewish settlements in all the occupied Arab territories including the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

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This Israeli hardline has prompted the Arabs to hold an emergency summit to discuss and consult on how to face such hostile Israeli position. Therefore, the Cairo summit has no other option but to succeed in its discussions and work for reviving Arab solidarity and supporting just and comprehensive peace as per UN resolutions. The Arabs have declared their commitment to the peace process which is based on the implementation of UN Resolutions 242, 338 and 425 and the principle of land for peace, but Israel never announced its commitment to the peace process, rather it declared its commitment to a very special kind of peace which allows it to continue to occupy Arab lands and usurp Arab rights. Today, all the masses across the Arab homeland are looking up to Cairo summit to end Arab differences and strengthen Arab stand because Israel is strong when the Arabs are weak but it is weak in front of united Arab strength.

Syria: Netanyahu Policy Said 'Anything But a Call for Peace'

JN2406071896 Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 20 Jun 96 p 5

[Editorial: "A look into the new policy"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A return to the inaugural speech made by Netanyahu, who presented his government to the Knesset on Tuesday and on the basis of which he won confidence and was installed as Israel's ninth Prime Minister gives further evidence of bypassing the principles of the peace process, particularly the US- masterminded land-for-peace formula. His speech can be described anything but a call for peace, although he tried to cover up his ill-intentions by voicing an "appeal for peace".

But what kind of peace is he appealing for when he gives his army of war complete freedom of action and dots all the occupied Arab territories in the Golan, in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip with settlement buildings? This is no more than tightening the Israeli grip on the occupied land. It has been acknowledged right from the beginning of the peace process that the building of settlements is against peace. It entails the confiscation of Arab lands and changes the nature of the land under military occupation, which is a violation of the Geneva conventions. The US administrations recognized the dangers of building settlements in the occupied territories and opposed the policy. The former administration of President Bush, as well as the present President Clinton's took a well-known attitude towards the building of settlements. And now Mr. Netanyahu stands up in defiance of all principles of justice and peace to declare "We will encourage the pioneering settlement of the land of Israel — in the Negev, Galilee, Judea and Samaria and Gaza Strip and on the Golan Heights" (!) First he calls all those areas the "land of Israel", calling the West Bank by Israeli names and including it the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights in the term "land of Israel"! This entails no recognition of the self-rule agreement with the Palestinians who though they took control of the Gaza Strip and some areas in the West Bank! and an overt and blatant declaration that the Golan Heights will remain under Israeli sovereignty, or say occupation, the building of settlements on those territories seized by war and the use of force will be encouraged and reinforced. On Jerusalem, the new Israeli Premier reiterated his uncompromising attitude when he said, "Above all we will guard and strengthen Jerusalem, the eternal capital of Israel (!), as a unified and whole city under the sovereignty of the state of Israel."(!)

What then remains of his "appeal for peace"? what negotiations is he calling for? The land, he wrote it off from the basis of the peace process, when he declared those occupied territories part of the "land of Israel". What will he negotiate about? Peace in return for what? When the basis of the process is pulled away, the process collapses. And now Netanyahu is pulling away this basis, perpetuating occupation and encouraging settlements in a bid to proceed along with his party's traditional policy of expansionism after he had put together a cabinet of racists and generals who are full of hatred of peace and of Arabs and with a strong tendency towards seeking the establishment of "greater Israel". It is a gloomy future that lies ahead!

Syria: Netanyahu Policy Termed 'Blatant Sabotage' of Peace Process

JN2106204896 Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 21 Jun 96 p 5

[Editorial: "What Guarantees Peace?" by Walid Shihadah]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The dangers posed to the peace process have become real now that the guidelines of the new Israeli government have been formally presented to the Israelis. These were speculations prompted by hardliner Bibi Netanyahu's victory in the May 29 elections, that the peace process faces the gravest danger in its short history. And those speculations turn to be true. Yesterday Likud chief presented his cabinet to the Knesset and as he says he invites Syria and all the Arab countries to continue the peace process but he insists that there should be no preconditions!

What is meant by "no pre-conditions? Doesn't this mean that he blows off the basics of the peace process? It is well known, and there is no need to remind Mr. Netanyahu and his followers that the peace process

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was originally launched on the basis of the land-for-peace principle which summarizes the provisions of two UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. When the new Israeli Prime Minister says "without preconditions," he seems to be abandoning the process altogether. Moreover, if we take the guidelines of his government's policy we see that it asserts the hardline policy adopted by the Likud bloc before the beginning of the peace process and all the way through the rule of Labour through Rabin and Peres, and up to the election campaign when Netanyahu spelled out his policy of sticking to the land occupied by Israeli troops by the use of force. The new policy has major headlines which can only be described as sabotaging the peace process.

The occupied Syrian Golan is considered significant to Israel's security, the new policy of the government says, therefore it should remain under Israeli control and sovereignty. This is explicit denial of the core of the peace process. Jerusalem should remain united, undivided, the eternal capital of Israel—another headline of the policy which the new Israeli government under Netanyahu will pursue. Other headlines reaffirm no Palestinian state, more settlement buildings, no withdrawal, giving the Israeli army of war the free hand to strike wherever, and whenever, and however it likes. In short, perpetuating Israeli occupation of the Arab lands and denying the rights of the Palestinian people are the brief description of Netanyahu's policy and plan of action.

This policy is an open and candid contradiction of the peace process. The basis on which this process was launched is land for peace. What remains of this principle when the element of land is deliberately removed? It is a blatant sabotage of the process, no doubt. And if this process is blown off, can the region see peace? Will there be stability? This certainly depends on the Israeli approach, because the Arabs have emphasised their adherence to the principles of the peace process and the forthcoming Arab summit in Cairo will reaffirm this adherence.

Syria: Deputy Premier Says Israel Trying To 'Control' Arab Markets

JN2306174596 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, 23 Jun (SANA) — Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, said attempts to spread fear about an Israeli domination of the Arab economic markets in the post-peace era were unjustified. He asserted that Syria and the Arab countries possess good capabilities, expertise, and knowledge.

Dr. Yasin, who led a Syrian Government economic delegation to Britain several days ago, gave a statement to AL-WASAT magazine in which he said: This does not mean Israel did not or will not try to control the Arab markets. However, what is important is that we find the means to exploit our energies and capabilities.

Asked about the importance of water to Syria, he said: All civilizations emerged on the banks of rivers and lakes. Therefore, the issue of water with Turkey should be addressed within the framework of good-neighborly relations, which should exist between two neighborly countries, and international norms and laws.

He said the oil pipeline passing through Banyas city needs an economic feasibility study, given that many of the established facts changed over the past ten years, not to mention the maintenance costs. [passage omitted]

Syria: Information Minister Says Syria Faces 'Conspiracy' To Distort Image

MM2006094196 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Jun 96 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Uqbah 'Ali al-Salih: "Information Minister Muhammad Salman Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Syria Facing Conspiracy, Preparing Economic Decisions"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris — Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has said "there is a conspiracy to distort Syria's image abroad with a view to glossing over the composition of the new Israeli Government, which represents everything that is hostile toward peace."

The Syrian minister, who was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone, said: The reports carried by some Western media fall within the framework of an organized campaign designed to harm Syria, and they are absolutely baseless.

Salman went on to say that "the Syrian leadership will — most likely next month — amend a number of economic laws that have been in force in Syria since the sixties, in order to serve citizens, give a new impetus to the Syrian economic reforms process, and rectify its course in line with the climate of stability and the state of institutions build by President Hafiz al-Asad in Syria." [passage omitted]

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Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Party Leaders Not To Attend U.S. Senate Session

LD2306152596 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] None of the leaders of the Afghan jehadi groups and concerned parties will go to Washington to attend a session of the [U.S.] Senate. They will only send their representatives to the session.

It is expected that on 26 June, the day that Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Afghanistan, arrives in Kabul, the U.S. Senate will hold a three-day private session in which Afghan leaders, personalities, and representatives will participate.

An IRNA correspondent reports from Kabul that Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, military commander of Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society], Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbari, leader of the council of Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party] in Kabul, and Ayatollah Asef Mosheni, leader of Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement], will not participate in the session sending instead only their representatives to the United States.

Also all the leaders of the opposition groups of the Afghan government and the leaders of neutral parties have stated that they will not personally attend the session in Washington. The Taleban group has not yet made any announcement as to whether it wants to participate in the session in Washington or not.

Senator Hank Brown, head of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee, recently invited over 20 Afghan leaders and personalities to participate in the session in Washington.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina, New Council of Ministers Sworn In

BK2306121496 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1200 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A 20-member Council of Ministers headed by Awami League President Sheikh Hasina [Wajed] took the oath of office a short while ago at the President House. The swearing-in ceremony was conducted by President Abdur Rahman Biswas.

Bangladesh: Wajed Promises Government of 'National Consensus'

BK2306143196 Hong Kong AFP in English 1420 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, June 23 (AFP) — Sheikh Hasina Wajed was sworn in Sunday as predominantly Muslim Bangladesh's second woman prime minister to lead this politically volatile country into the next century.

Bangladesh President Abdur Rahman Biswas administered the oath of office to Wajed and her 19-member council of ministers at a sober ceremony at the Bangabhaban Presidential Palace's Darbar Hall under glittering Victorian chandeliers.

Awami League MPs applauded as Wajed took the oath, some with tears on their faces.

Wajed, 49, led her Awami League to victory in the June 12 general election after a gruelling stint in the opposition.

Wearing a green and white silk sari, a smiling Wajed told AFP: "I have been entrusted with a big responsibility and pray to Allah to help me so that I can fulfill my pledges to the people."

She said she wanted harmony with her main rival, former prime minister and chief of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Khaleda Zia, who stayed away from Sunday's ceremonies.

"I appeal to her (Zia) to forget all differences for the greater national interest for building a happy Bangladesh," Wajed said, as she chatted with guests after taking the oath.

Asked about Zia's boycotting of the ceremony, she said: "I also appeal to her to accept the people's verdict."

"We promised to run the government on the basis of national consensus and this is a government of national consensus," Wajed added.

Anwar Hossain Monju, the secretary general of the opposition Jatiya Party was made a full minister in the new cabinet and was sworn in, but the rest of the party boycotted the ceremony because its leader former president Hussain Muhammad Ershad was not invited.

"A government of national consensus was essential now to face the economic and political challenges facing the country," Monju said.

Army chief Lieutenant General Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman said "the armed forces will give full cooperation to the new government for the continuation of democratic traditions."

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Former caretaker government chief Muhammad Habibur Rahman heaved a sign of relief saying "it (holding the elections) was a tough job, at times giving me great worries. I am very happy now."

The premier waved to tens of thousands of people who cheered and clapped as she left the palace in a white Mercedes.

The League, which was also celebrating the 47th anniversary of its founding Sunday, has won a five-year term in office, taking charge the same year as the country celebrates its 25 years of independence.

Wajed, 49, the mother of a son and daughter, was unanimously elected party chief by the rank and file in 1982, a year after she returned from exile. Her husband is a well-known scientist.

The Awami League, headed by Bangladesh's founding leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was ousted from power in a bloody coup in 1975, four years after leading the country to independence from Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Zia's BNP postponed its scheduled swearing in of new members of parliament Sunday afternoon.

"We have yet to decide when we will take oath as MPs...and will go to court with our demands for new elections in 111" of the 300 constituencies, Zia was quoted as saying by the Bhorer Kagoj daily.

Local and international election monitors said the elections were "free, fair and transparent."

However, the BNP chief said she was ready to sit in the parliamentary opposition and has abandoned efforts to form a government because "one party has won more seats."

Thirty seats reserved for women would be elected by the MPs once parliament convenes. Most of these are expected to represent the League given its majority.

Bangladesh: Prime Minister Allocates Ministers' Portfolios

BK2306170296 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1600 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A 20-member cabinet headed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been sworn in. It comprises, without the prime minister, 11 ministers and eight ministers of state. President Abdur Rahman Biswas administered the oath of office to the new prime minister, ministers, and state ministers separately in a simple but impressive ceremony at Bangabhaban [president house] this afternoon. The oath taking ceremony was attended, among others, by: former President [name indistinct]; Chief Adviser Mohammad Habibur Rahman and former members of his council of advisers; Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali; chief election commissioner; politicians; MP's; judges; chiefs of the three services; top civil and military officials; diplomats; and elites of the city.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has allocated portfolios among the ministers and ministers of state. The prime minister retains the portfolios of [words indistinct] Division, Cabinet Division, Special Affairs Division, and Ministry of Defense, and Ministries of Information, Water Transport, Farming, Environment and Forests, Jute, Textiles, Civil Aviation and Tourism, Land, Labor and Manpower, Establishment, and Health and Family Welfare.

The portfolios of ministers are:
Abdus Samad Azad — foreign affairs
Mohammad Zillur Rahman — local government, rural development and cooperatives
S.A.M.S. Kibria — finance
A.H.S.K. Sadeq — Education Ministry, Primary and Mass Education Department, Science and Technology
Abdur Razzak — water resources
Tofael Ahmed — commerce and industry
Lieutenant General, retired, Mohammad Nuruddin Khan — power, energy, and mineral resources
Major, retired, Rafiqul Islam — Ministry of Home Affairs
Mohammad Nasim — posts and telecommunications
Motia Chowhdury — agriculture, food, and disaster management and relief
Anwar Hossain — communications
The portfolios of the state ministers are:
Dr. Mozammel Hossain — women and children affairs, and social welfare
Satish Chandra Roy — fisheries and livestock
Obaidul Kader — youth and sports and cultural affairs
Abul Hasan Chowdhury Kaiser— [word indistinct] affairs
Alhaj Syed Abul Hossain — local government, rural development, and cooperatives
Mohammad Nurul Islam — religious affairs
Afsaruddin Ahmed Khan — housing and works
Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru — law, justice, and parliamentary affairs

Bangladesh: President Addresses Nation 23 Jun

BK2306163296 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1333 GMT 23 Jun 96

[Address to the nation by Bangladeshi President Abdur Rahman Biswas; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear Countrymen: May God bless you. With the formation of a government by a

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political party that was elected as the majority party in the general elections held on 12 and 19 June, the country is moving forward on the path of democracy. Today, the new prime minister and Council of Ministers have taken the oath of office. I extend my sincere congratulations to them. I wish their overall success. Let the democratic system and the hopes and aspirations of the people be implemented and expedited through the coordinated efforts of the government and opposition parties. I pray to Almighty God that the foundation of democracy will be further consolidated. After this, I want to tell you something.

Dear countrymen, all of you are aware that [words indistinct] that after the passage of the 13th Amendment of the Constitution in the sixth parliament [words indistinct] was entrusted to the president, and former Chief Justice Mohammad Habibur Rahman was made chief adviser [words indistinct]. For the smooth conduct of the elections, I appointed Mr. Mohammad Abu Hena as chief election commissioner. In accordance with the provisions of the 13th Amendment, the caretaker government is (?accountable) to the president in the absence of a parliament. Before the passage of this amendment, the president was the supreme commander of the Armed Forces. This 13th Amendment of the Constitution has also entrusted charge of the Defense Ministry and the Armed Forces Division to the elected president.

I am very happy to inform you today that the purpose for which the caretaker government was formed under the 13th Amendment of the Constitution, the purpose of the people of this country, has been fulfilled. In accordance with the results of the elections in which over 73 percent of voters of the country participated, the majority party has formed the government. I have committed no lapses of neutrality in performing the responsibilities entrusted to me as president in the holding of this election. For this, I want to convey my sincere thanks to the honorable chief adviser of the caretaker government, advisers, the chief election commissioner, election commissioners, all officials and employees associated with the elections, and all members of the Armed Forces, police, Bangladesh Rifles, and paramilitary forces. I also extend my sincere congratulations to the honorable members of all the country's political parties for their cooperation.

Dear countrymen, compulsory retirement along with financial benefits have been given to [words indistinct] in accordance with the provisions of the Army Act and related regulations centering on the incident that took place on 18 May 1996 in the Army, which is the pride of the country. In this context, former Army Chief Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim, Bir Bikram [honorary title], has been accused of violating Army discipline and declaring rebellion against the government.

Following this incident that took place in the Army, I requested the chief adviser, law adviser, chief of the Naval Staff, and the acting chief of the Air Force to immediately come to the Bangabhaban [President House] to discuss the issue. I held detailed talks with them on bringing the situation under control. After this, I gave compulsory retirement to Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim, Bir Bikram, former chief of the Army staff, and appointed Major General Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman as the chief of the Army staff. Later on that day, I addressed the nation on radio and television and directed the concerned Army officials to take necessary measures to bring the situation under control.

A Court of Inquiry was also formed to investigate this incident. This court was headed by a major general and comprised of four brigadiers. A press release was issued by Inter-Service Public Relations [ISPR] of the Ministry of Defense with my approval, with the intention of advising the people about the entire incident that had taken place within in the Army. The Defense Ministry and the ISPR are part of the government; they are not outside the government.

At a later stage, the members of the Court of Inquiry submitted their timely report through the Army chief. On the basis of this report and in accordance with the Army Act and existing Defense Ministry regulations, I exempted the concerned army officers from severe exemplary punishment and issued orders to dismiss one former army [word indistinct] and give compulsory retirement along with financial benefits to (?eight) other officers.

This decision to give lenient punishments to the accused Army officers was made after taking into consideration their participation and contribution in the country's war of independence. The punishment of the Armed Forces members was given in accordance with the existing Army Act. [passage indistinct]

Many people have severely criticized this incident, saying that this decision was made to influence the general elections [words indistinct]. These are attempts to confuse the people [words indistinct]. On the other hand, the formation of the government by the majority party in the elections has been done through normal procedure. [passage indistinct]

Dear countrymen: Today we are very happy that due to the contribution of the members of the Armed Forces of the country [words indistinct]. For this reason, I took the necessary legal measures after consultations

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with the honorable chief adviser, law adviser, and other concerned military officials to address the situation. I sincerely believe that the people have no confusion in this regard. [passage indistinct] We have nothing to be frustrated about. I hope that democracy and democratic values will flourish further and expand during the rule of this government. [words indistinct] in this new situation in the country, let the democratic process further develop and democratic values [words indistinct]. I end my speech by expressing my sincere thanks to all of you.

India

India: Gujral Writes Counterparts on Delhi's CTBT View

BK2206133396 Madras THE HINDU in English 22 Jun 96 p 11

[Report by K.K. Katyal]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The External Affairs Minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has written to his counterparts in all other countries, to share India's views and perceptions on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT], as it has been negotiated in Geneva. He has explained at some length the reasons that weighed with India in expressing its inability to accept the draft in its present form.

The points made by him could not have been different from those made in the statement at the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva by the chief Indian delegate, Ms. Arundhati Ghose, but his action in personally explaining the reasons to his colleagues of other Governments shows New Delhi's anxiety to ensure that its stand is clearly understood.

Referring to India's active and constructive engagement in the discussions on a test ban over two years, and also to its commitment to a nuclear-free world, Mr. Gujral shares his disappointment with his colleagues over the contents of the draft. In particular, he draws their attention to the restricted scope of the proposed ban (intended to cover only explosions but neither the laboratory simulations nor other means to develop and update nuclear arsenals with the help of new technologies) and the absence of any linkage with a firm, time-bound schedule for nuclear disarmament. The proposed ban, thus, will not be comprehensive nor a step towards nuclear disarmament. The letter reaffirms India's commitment to work for a nuclear-free world. The Indian decision not to accept the treaty draft could not have come as a surprise to the outside world, because of the ample advance indications, provided by the Government's spokesmen in public statements and in talks with the Delhi-based diplomats.

The Geneva discussions, according to the present schedule, are due to conclude on June 28 though the chances of a brief extension are not ruled out. Suggestions to that effect have already been made by China and Russia. The diplomatic activity is certain to pick up in coming days but no one in India is under an illusion about the possibility of serious moves to accommodate the Indian viewpoint.

The first reactions are varied in tone and context. In the case of the U.S., it is in a standard non-substantive form. The State Department spokesman, according to reports reaching here, said the U.S. regretted India's announced decision that it could not sign the CTBT in its present form. However, there was satisfaction that "India still remains involved in the negotiations in Geneva." It was hoped that India would be "able to join a broad, multilateral consensus in support of a comprehensive ban."

What the U.S. spokesman said did not address New Delhi's concern. The CTBT, according to him, was "important to the U.S. and all the countries of the world who want to reduce the threat of an accident or a nuclear altercation and who want to make sure that the nuclear countries are acting responsibly with their possession of nuclear weapons. The treaty that is emerging in Geneva is designed to represent the consensus of all the countries that are negotiating this treaty. And while the treaty may not fulfill all of the requirements of every country, it will represent, we believe, a major and significant and historic step forward for the world."

India: 'Major' Political Parties Welcome Negative CTBT Decision

BK2106133796 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 21 Jun 96 p 5

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Major political parties, including the main Opposition Bhartiya Janata Party [BJP], have hailed the Government decision not to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI (M)] welcomed the decision and said the Government's decision was in accordance with the line propagated by the party.

According to the CPI(M), while nuclear disarmament on a global scale was required, the present text of the Treaty was "biased and discriminatory" in nature.

In this context, the party said the stand taken by India to keep its nuclear option open was justified.

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The BJP said there was a consensus on the issue in spite of differences among political parties and unstable political situation in the country. It showed "we can still stand united on issues of national security," party general secretary Pramod Mahajan said. He continued that the Government's stand on the Test Ban Treaty sounded just like the BJP's election manifesto. "We definitely welcome it."

Congress spokesperson V N Gadgil said: "We support this move because our party always took the stand that the nuclear disarmament must be universal and non-discriminatory."

Janata Dal working president Sharad Yadav said, "This is our line. We had been all along for this. We welcome it."

Dr Rajendra Jain, spokesperson of the All India Indira Congress Tiwari, a constituent of the 13-party Front, said in a statement that his party fully supported the stand of the Government.

Welcoming the Government's decision, former Union Minister and Congress leader Rajesh Pilot in a statement said it would not only be in India's interest but is also in keeping with our morale and ethical principles and our long term national security interest. "This has been the consistent policy for more than 40 years in which the Congress has shaped and pursued this policy," Mr Pilot said.

"People of India do not want to have nuclear weapon but as long as other countries have these and do not want to give it up, we cannot give up our sovereign right," he added.

DECISION REGRETTED

The authors of just published study, "Testing Times: The Global Strike in Nuclear Test," Mr Praful Bidwai and Mr Achin Vanaik, have "regretted" India's decision to adopt a "negative attitude to the Geneva talks on the test ban", reports Pioneer News Service.

In a statement they said, "This will play into the hands of arms racers in the nuclear weapons states. It risks losing a proposal that India itself pioneered in 1994." The decision, they said, "is a setback to the cause of global nuclear disarmament, and to the evolution of a rational security policy for India. India's position is inconsistent: After arguing on universal, global, moral grounds for two years, New Delhi suddenly cites 'national security' reasons," argues the authors.

Mr Bidwai and Mr Vanaik said that it was "still not too late for New Delhi to moderate its stand by dropping its demand for linkage with time bound nuclear disarmament and an excessively strict definition of scope, while insisting on an improved preamble."

India: Proposed CTBT 'Fails' To Meet 'Basic' Proliferation Criteria

BK2106132896 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 21 Jun 96 p 9

[Article by Jasjit Singh: "CTBT Likely To Legitimize Nuclear Arms Race"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] For quite some time it has been clear that a widespread and strong consensus has existed for us not to be a party to the treaty that is emerging from the negotiations at Geneva.

In judging the issues it is necessary to remember that the mandate adopted by the Conference for Disarmament (CD) in January 1994 was to negotiate a treaty which would 'effectively' contribute to the twin goals of nuclear non-proliferation ("in all its aspects", that is vertical and horizontal, qualitative and quantitative) as well as (global) nuclear disarmament.

It is also useful to recall that the Clinton-Rao joint statement four months later had also called for the same twin goals.

However, even in respect of non-proliferation, the proposed treaty fails to meet some basic criteria. It will not stop vertical proliferation. On the other hand, there is every reason to believe that it sets the framework for a new qualitative arms race since it does not prohibit non-explosive testing.

This is why France conducted a series of tests, China continues to do so, and the US has agreed to provide France with technological assistance to sustain better arsenals. The US has similar arrangements with the UK, and had offered simulation technology to China also in 1994.

In the absence of ban on subcritical testing and simulation processes and techniques, qualitative improvements by the five nuclear weapon states will continue.

One of the original goals of the Indian proposal for a test ban was to stop the nuclear arms race. It is indeed ironic that this race, which appeared to have stopped with the end of Cold War, now is likely to be triggered and legitimised by the nature of the so-called CTBT [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty].

The treaty being finalised has no provisions to address the possibility of transfer of tested designs by a nuclear weapon state to another country. Only recently, China was accused by the United States of transferring nuclear weapons technology to Pakistan. Western reports have

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been asserting for many years that Pakistan received a tested design for its bomb from China. The treaty will also fail to stop a non-nuclear weapon state from acquiring weapons, except that there will be a ban against their testing. But this does not improve the prospects of peace and security. After all, the Hiroshima bomb was untested.

It is equally unfortunate that the nuclear weapon states have ensured that no linkage to disarmament gets established, and nor has the process been allowed to start in parallel.

For India, the issue of global disarmament is crucial. At the fundamental level, nuclear weapons need to be abolished on grounds of universal moral and ethical values and principles. But the arsenals of the five-nuclear weapon states have been the prime factor for the pressures on security of countries, nearly two dozen of which have sought solutions through nuclear umbrellas of weapon states.

Cold War used to be cited in justification for nuclear weapons, but the Cold War has been over for five years. As we stand on the threshold of the 21st century, a decisive movement toward total elimination of nuclear weapons becomes even more important for international peace and security than ever before.

Nuclear weapons have reinforced an iniquitous world order especially since the five-nuclear weapon states are also the Permanent Members of the UN Security Council.

Democracy at national levels cannot be sustained across the world on durable basis without democratisation of inter-state relations. Nuclear disarmament will be a major step toward a more equitous international order.

Last, but not the least, nuclear disarmament would serve India's security and strategic interests better. We will be in a better position to defend ourselves if the strategic environment was non-nuclear. It is the absence of movement, leave alone steps toward disarmament that necessitates an open option for India.

There are suggestions that the treaty will be made conditional in some form or the other to India's participation. This would not only be unfair and arouse strong resentments in India, but is likely to generate pressures for us to move from the recessed deterrence posture to an overt and explicit nuclear weapons status.

On the other hand, it is highly unlikely that the weapon states especially the US, will leave a veto in Indian hands. We need to keep working for a comprehensive treaty beyond the present partial test ban treaty.

Iran

Iran: Foreign Ministry Spokesman Calls Arab Summit 'Positive Step'

LD2306175796 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign ministry spokesman has welcomed the holding of the recent Arab summit. He called on Arab countries to bear in mind the evil aims and intentions of the Zionist regime against the Muslim people of the region and to concentrate all their efforts on strengthening the deterrent policies regarding the hegemony of the occupiers.

[Morteza] Sarmadi said the holding of the Arab summit after so many years, aimed at combating the ploys and hegemonic policies of the Zionists and the injustices committed against the Palestinian and Lebanese nations, was a positive step considering the viewpoints and events resulting from U.S. imposed conditions. He said: In our view, for Arab countries to be aware of the evil aims and the true nature of the hegemonic policies of the Zionist regime and to leave behind a period of ignorance and disregard for realities and false optimism, is regarded as positive.

He stressed the necessity to strengthen unity and solidarity between Arab and Islamic countries and strengthen the spirit of cooperation between the countries in the region against the hegemony of the common Zionist enemy. He said that, as ever, Iran is prepared to have active participation in the maintenance of stability and security in the region and combat the aggressionist plans of the occupiers.

He then referred to elements who are scared of the United States and who constantly prevent the holding of anti-Zionist sessions and sabotage unity and solidarity between Arab and Islamic countries in the face of the conspiracies of the Zionist regime. He added: Nowadays, those scared elements are attempting to weaken the anti-Zionist faction and derail the stances and policies adopted against the expansionism of the Zionist regime, the effects of which we see in the form of raising deviationist issues such as the baseless and false accusation about the Iran's interference in Bahrain's domestic crisis.

He once again rejected [allegations of] Iran's interference in the Bahraini crisis. He said: As has already been declared, the Bahraini crisis is an internal issue and the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to make an effort to help bring about reconciliation between the government and the popular opposition groups in Bahrain. It is hoped that the Bahraini Government will adopt more

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suitable methods to bring about reconciliation and peace instead of confrontation.

He said: Raising the issue of the islands in the final statement of the Arab summit was another example of the deviationist attempts by those elements. He stressed that Iran's ownership of the three islands [Greater and Lesser Tunbs and Abu Musa] is permanent. He reiterated that Iran was prepared to continue the dialogue with the UAE to resolve the existing misunderstandings.

He added: It is better for Arab countries to take steps to encourage the UAE to continue the dialogue instead of raising a futile hue and cry which results in nothing but increasing tension and paving the way for foreign interference in the region.

He said finally that unity and solidarity and collective effort by Islamic and Arab countries was a prerequisite to attaining the goal of the Islamic and Arab countries, that is, the complete liberation of the occupied lands. He added: If those elements who are scared of and are influenced by the United States and the Zionist regime are not given the opportunity to sabotage the policies and stances of Arab countries, undoubtedly such sessions would gain more authority to combat the conspiracies of the Zionists.

Iran: Daily Urges Clear Message From Cairo Summit on U.S., Israel

LD2206072296 Tehran IRNA in English 0534 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 22, IRNA — An English language daily Saturday [22 June] commented on the Cairo summit that is to begin today, stressing that Arab leaders should take a clear stand before the Muslim world and the U.S.-Israeli alliance, demonstrating that justice is the solution to the problem that has plagued the Middle East for half a century.

The two-day Arab summit is to review the Middle East situation now facing a serious crisis, the 'IRAN NEWS' wrote, noting that Zionist Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu has declined to fulfil the commitments made by his predecessor to Israel's neighbors.

Saying that some analysts are skeptical of the ability of the gathering to produce positive results, it wrote, "some observers believe that a broader-based summit under the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) would have had a better impact in countering the potential Zionist danger which is designed to be not only against the Arabs but also the entire Islamic world."

Nevertheless, sympathizers of the summit believe that Arab leaders could succeed if serious and sincere decisions are made to adopt a future strategy for countering the danger from Israel, it remarked.

It concluded with a reminder to the summiteers that they should send a clear message that justice is the only means that could pave the way to resolving the problem in the Middle East.

Iran: Commentary Predicts Zionist-Arab 'Cold War' After Summit

LD2206214496 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 22 Jun 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners, let me draw your attention to tonight's first commentary.

For the first time in six years, an Arab summit opened in Cairo on this morning amid tight security. Heads of state and officials from 21 countries have come together at the conference, which is reportedly being held in reaction to the victory of hard line Zionists in the elections. The conference is being held at a time when the Arab parties involved in the process of compromise [with Israel] are viewing it with unprecedented pessimism. Syria's position is the most hard line of all, in the midst of all this, because it wishes to see a continuation of the oppositionist trend by Arab countries to the process of compromise; whereas [Saudi] Arabia is trying to make the continuation of the process conditional on the full implementation of UN resolutions.

Yasir 'Arafat, the head of the Palestinian Self-Rule Government, is more interested in having Arab countries officially recognize the existence of a Palestinian state, with its capital in Jerusalem.

In the opinion of political analysts, it seems as if the decisions adopted at the conference will not be very pleasing to the United States and the Zionists and, in view of the approaching elections in the United States and the efforts being made by that country's leaders to obtain the satisfaction of the Zionists, it can be expected that the world will witness the occurrence of a new cold war in the future between the two hostile sides of the Arabs and the Zionists.

Iran: Summit Declaration 'Positive' Despite 'Irrelevant' Points

LD2406091596 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 24, IRNA — Deputy Foreign Minister for Afro-Arab Affairs Hoseyn Sheykholeslam said the two-day Arab summit held in

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Cairo has opened a new chapter in the history of the struggle against occupation and aggression in the region.

In an interview with the morning daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' printed Monday, [24 June] he stressed, "the active participation of 21 Arab leaders in a summit, with an agenda aimed at finding a united Arab stand vis-a-vis the Zionist regime, indicates that a new political will is emerging."

Describing the Cairo summit's final declaration as 'positive', he noted that although some irrelevant points have been incorporated in the final text of the resolution, the discussions in the gathering and the concluding statement were mainly in line with the agenda of the meeting.

The incorporation into the final resolution of baseless allegations against Iran, claiming its involvement in the Bahraini crisis, and the unjustified claims of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on the Iranian islands stem from the fact that the U.S. did not want the outcome of the summit to be totally anti- Israel.

On Netanyahu's annulment of all agreements previously reached between the Arabs and the Zionist state, he said that today, it is clear to all governments in the region that the Zionist regime does not honor its international commitments. Hence, all regional governments are under pressure from their people to take a firm stand in the face of Israeli aggression. As Netanyahu disregards bilateral and multilateral agreements today, the next prime minister can abrogate any agreement between Netanyahu's government and the Arabs, he further said.

Sheykholeslam concluded by calling on regional states to be vigilant in order not to be diverted from their objectives by the U.S. and Zionist plots.

Iran: Tehran Rejects Bahrain's Accusations at Arab Summit

LD2306144896 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa Bin- Salman Al Khalifah, has once again accused the Islamic Republic of Iran of intervening in his country's affairs.

Speaking at the Arab summit in Cairo yesterday, Shaykh Al Khalifah elaborated on the unrest in his emirate, describing it as a wave of Islamization in Bahrain. In the session, the Bahraini amir also called for the continuation of compromise talks between the Arab states and the Zionist regime.

This is when the Islamic Republic of Iran has frequently denied that accusation and said the charges are the result of U.S. provocations. Iran also condemned the U.S. and the Zionist regime's conspiracies, saying they secure the objectives and covetous desires of foreigners in the region.

In recent months, Bahrain has been the scene of unrest and bomb explosions. The opposition has called for the reopening of parliament and establishment of a government of democracy in the country.

Political analysts consider the presence of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf region a cause of instability and insecurity in the region.

Iran: Daily Assails UK Officials' 'Foolish' Remarks on Bahrain

LD2206144896 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 19 Jun 96 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "When the Old Fox Howls in Manama"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the foolish remarks by Andrew Green, British ambassador to Saudi Arabia, about the crisis in Bahrain, the English minister of state for foreign affairs also uttered some nonsense about the very same issue.

Jeremy Hanley told a news conference in Manama: Iran supports terrorism, instigates disputes, and encourages violence. This official, who is currently on a two-day visit to Bahrain, added: We urge the Iranian Government to stop its activities, because stability in Bahrain and the other Persian Gulf states is highly important.

These words were spoken only a week after the provocative remarks by the English ambassador to Saudi Arabia, and it seems that the English are at present busy plotting an organized political and propaganda offensive against the Islamic Republic of Iran. An offensive which is merely aimed at deepening political disagreements between the Arabs and the Islamic Iran, and worsening the existing tension in the Persian Gulf. The English view this as a permanent mission for themselves which they have never stopped following.

The performance record of the English in the Persian Gulf is full of mischievous and adventurist efforts to create sedition and sow the seeds of discord and disunity. They have naturally benefited significantly from these efforts in that, by creating fear among the Arab shaykhs, they have managed to get their hands on large sums of Arab "petroleum dollars" in exchange for some military equipment for which there is no need whatsoever in the Persian Gulf region.

However, at present, it seems that in the new wave of propaganda war against the Islamic Republic of Iran,

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the English are not merely pursuing the above mentioned objective. This time, the mischievous English have intensified their destructive efforts — which unfortunately seem to enjoy the support of the dependent Arab regimes of the region — in a bid to prepare the necessary psychological grounds for greater cooperation between the regional Arabs and the new Israeli Government. That is to say, a government whose declared policies have dealt a heavy blow to the compromise process.

Like the Americans, the English have also reached the conclusion that one of the ways of bridging the distance between the new rulers of Israel and the regional Arab states is to create a false sense of fear of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

These efforts have been particularly intensified on the eve of the Cairo summit in a bid to create the right atmosphere in the talks for cooperation with Israel.

The reality, nonetheless, is that the English are totally devoid of any positive experience in resolving any regional crisis anywhere in the world. If they had enjoyed the slightest ability for settling political problems, they would have been able to resolve the Irish question which has plagued the statesmen of the London [royal] court for nearly three decades.

Given the present situation in Bahrain, the remarks made in the shaykhdom by the deputy English foreign secretary, and for that matter, his whole visit to that state, must be seem as a provocative move. It is precisely due to these moves that the unwise leaders of Bahrain have felt confident enough to blame external forces for their present domestic crisis.

Guided by the bias and enmity of America, England, and Israel, they have invariably been trying to divert the attention of their populace from the depth of their cultural, social, economic, and political problems to factors outside their national borders. In this way, these leaders seek to blame external factors for events and developments which are the direct consequences of their own impotence to manage the affairs of their country. It is for this reason that this type of propaganda has always enjoyed the wholehearted support of all the political and propaganda organs that are affiliated to the world of arrogance in general, and to England, America, and Israel in particular.

Our reason for stressing the involvement of England in the whole affair to such an extent is that from the end of the First World War to around 1971, England enjoyed total domination and control over Bahrain and its rulers, particularly the Al Khalifah dynasty, and this enabled London to become fully familiar with the weak points of the Bahraini leaders.

Moreover, during the past 25 years of their so-called independence from England, the Manama rulers have never severed their bonds of dependence on London. They are still the mercenaries and hirelings of England in the region, and the English military and civilian officials still dictate the terms in that country. It is therefore quite natural for us to think that a direct order from London has brought about their most recent wave of unfounded accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iran: Sudan Welcomes Iran's Proposal To Hold Islamic Summit

LD2306152996 Tehran IRNA in English 1401 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, June 23, IRNA — A Sudanese advisor on foreign affairs has welcomed a proposal put forward by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on holding an Islamic summit meet in view of the recent regional developments.

In an interview with IRNA, Mostafa Othman Esmail said that Sudan supports Iran's proposal with regards to the necessity of Islamic and Arabic unity.

Turning to the Zionist regime, Esmail noted that there is no difference between the two Zionist parties as both of them are merely serving the interests of the Zionist regime.

Underlining his country's stand vis-a-vis the compromise trend in the Middle East, he underlined that all occupied Arab lands should be returned to their real owners and rights of Palestinians should be respected.

The Sudanese official stressed that confronting the Zionist regime could be realized only through unity of Muslims and Arab people.

Iran: Foreign Ministry Official on Talks With EU, U.S. Policies

LD2306083896 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iran's deputy foreign minister in charge of Euro- American affairs said on Sunday [23 June] that the United States was trying to prevent the expansion of relations between Iran and Europe but members of the European Union — collectively and individually — opposed such American actions.

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi, who recently held talks with EU officials on his visit to Italy, said the European Commission had strongly condemned the recent U.S. Congressional legislation that punishes non-American companies dealing with Iran. The EU had

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also criticized the U.S. legislature in its recent summit in Florence.

Va'ezi said Europe proved that it wanted to follow an independent and particular policy of its own, and that as long as the EU pursued such a policy and refused to follow the policy that the United States was trying to impose, Iran could count on certain and continuous trade and economic relations with Europe.

Referring to the request by the European leaders for tangible results in periodic talks between the EU and Iran, Va'ezi said the talks had been positive and useful; and that the two sides had reached common and tangible elements.

He said one of the most important outcomes of the talks was the decision to continue the discussions and to allow officials to follow up the issues on both sides.

Va'ezi also said that the Middle East peace plan, Iran's criticism of the plan and the issue of terrorism were discussed in the sixth round of talks between the EU and Iran in Rome.

Iran: Velayati Stresses Regional Security at Crans Montana

LD2306192896 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The annual session of the World Forum Foundation that was held in Crans Montana, Switzerland, ended this afternoon.

The four-day meeting of political officials and economists from different countries discussed change and development in Central Asia; security of the Persian Gulf; developments in Central Europe and investment in the 21st Century.

On the sidelines of the four-day conference, the Iranian delegation chaired seven separate meetings on issues concerning regional expansion and Central Asia; security of the Persian Gulf; debt management; Sarakhs free trade zone and the role of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], trade and transport with Central Asia; energy in Central Asia and also the Caspian Sea and environmental issues.

In the closing session of the conference when the question of security in the Persian Gulf was being discussed, our country's Foreign Minister Ali 'Akbar Velayati described how the Islamic Republic of Iran viewed the question of strengthening stability and security in the region.

He said: In spite of two ruinous regional wars, no particular security viewpoint, which could guarantee the peace and security of the region, has yet taken shape. This is because world powers define and promote issues related to the security of the Persian Gulf in ways which are solely aimed at serving their own interests.

He pointed out that the national security and economic development of the littoral countries are closely linked to the security of the Persian Gulf. He said: The importance of this region has increased now that there is a line of communication between the countries of Central Asia and the Persian Gulf, through Iran. In this respect, any instability and insecurity in the Persian Gulf will not affect [as heard] other countries in the region.

Mr. Velayati referred to the new conditions underlying international relations and stressed the need for paying attention to, and respecting the preservation of the territorial integrity and political independence of the regional countries. He said: The countries of the region should behave in such a way as to attract each other's confidence and thus, strengthen the basis for security and stability in the region.

He said that discussion and talks between the regional countries to achieve peace and security was unavoidable, adding: The planning of collective security measures such as reducing military expenditure; limiting arms purchases and commitment of all regional countries to nuclear and chemical weapons' conventions, will only be achieved through talks and negotiations.

Iran: Velayati Comments on Crans Montana Meeting

LD2406085196 Tehran IRNA in English 0656 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 24, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who had attended the annual forum foundation meeting in Crans Montana, Switzerland, returned home Monday [24 June] morning.

In an interview with IRNA upon arrival, he outlined Iran's crucial presence in the gathering, saying the Islamic Republic was considered at the meeting as a powerful and major country in the Central Asian and the Persian Gulf regions.

Commenting on the impact of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen railroad in strengthening regional cooperation as well as establishing stability and promoting development in the whole region, Velayati stated that the linking of Central Asia to the Persian Gulf via Iran has heightened the importance of regional security.

More on the meeting, the foreign minister said that reviewing political, economic and security viewpoints of different countries had a great impact on promoting relations between the Islamic Republic and other countries

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interested in regional cooperation in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Other subjects discussed by Velayati included security in the Persian Gulf, where he briefed the audience on Iran's stance on the issue.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Velayati met with a number of senior officials of other countries participating in the meeting and discussed regional cooperation as well as the latest international developments.

Iran: Rafsanjani Comments on Judiciary

LD2306101196 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA — President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Sunday [23 June] stressed that conditions of the time require that those who are engaged in judicial affairs should enjoy a high degree of political awareness.

Speaking in the opening session of the gathering of the judiciary officials, the president said, "the enemies of Islam are looking for opportunities to find flaws in our work so as to bring Islam under question and deplore our performance."

Directing his remarks on the judiciary officials, gathered on the occasion of the judiciary week, the president added, "many eyes in the world are focused on us and, therefore, in handling cases in which the enemy is looking to find an excuse, we must observe full political awareness."

The president added that it is of vital importance that people evaluate conduct of the judiciary as "free and fair."

He further warned the judges against favoritism and other personal considerations in their practice and judgement.

President Rafsanjani continued, "we should all work to create a model Islamic society."

An environment should be created in the society that people will never doubt fairness and impartiality of the officials in charge.

Iran: Editorial Hails Khamene'i Guidance on Work of Majles

LD2206173796 Tehran AKHBAR in Persian 19 Jun 96 p 2

[Editorial: "Tomorrow's Iran"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The deputies of the Fifth Majles were received by the esteemed leader of the revolution [Khamene'i] in order to receive guidelines at the start of their work.

The leader of the revolution said in connection with the presence of [different] political tendencies in the Fifth Majles: The reform and progress of the country depends on the participation of different groups and tendencies in the elections, and their entry into the social domain. [passage omitted]

The esteemed leader's remarks are the starting point — the start of a new alignment between political groups who are in the arena and who have to cast their thoughts on national unity. It is good and quite natural to have differences of opinion and varieties of political tastes — at least to the extent that these differences do not harm national unity and interests. But it is beneath the dignity of the Islamic system to be fanatical and doubtful in the move to reconstruct the country, and to distort this movement.

The arena that has been prepared for the presence and participation of different groups in the process of the country's reconstruction, is a glorious achievement of the Islamic revolution. This achievement should not be limited by being monopolized by any group or individual.

The esteemed leader's emphasis on the role of [Akbar] Hashemi-Rafsanjani as head of the executive power, indicates the sensitive nature of the circumstances and also stresses his pivotal role for the system and the revolution.

A people that has sacrificed its life to protect and preserve the Islamic revolution, its values, and aspirations will not spare any sacrifices to preserve the honor of a developed and free Islamic Iran. A suitable context should be created for cooperation between the government and the majles so as to secure the welfare and future of this people, with the support of the commander of reconstruction [Rafsanjani].

Tomorrow's Iran must be built today.

Iran: Editorial on Visit of British European MP's to Iran

LD2206220396 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 17 Jun 96 pp 1, 16

[Editorial by Heshmatollah Fallahian-Pisheh: "The Trodden Path"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Representatives of Britain in the European Parliament are visiting Iran. Invited or uninvited, they are guests of our government officials and Majles deputies. The small three-membered delegation represents the European Parliament and so-called human

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rights circles — opposition or neutral! [as published] — and is trying to find arguments to counter the levers of pressure being used on Europe by the Americans and influential Zionist groups. The question of human rights in Iran, a policy of critical dialogue, and the interests of the British Government in Iran and the region are among the main points of the mission being carried out by this troika. It is worth examining the current circumstances in which the mission is taking place.

Some time ago, the world human rights organization [as published] issued a repetitive resolution against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The United States, the Zionist regime, and a number of European governments led the pack in this regard.

In the meantime, the waves of propaganda resulting from the policy of sanctions against Iran continue in the United States. The impudence of the Americans is now even threatening international commerce and the Americans' European and Japanese rivals, such that, in recent days, with the approval of the bill, tightening sanctions against Iran, by the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee of the United States, it has aroused the wrath of even its own friends. The said bill has to be approved by the Senate and endorsed by Clinton before coming into effect.

1. Human rights: It has been stated in the resolution issued by the most recent general assembly of the European Parliament in Strasbourg: "If the United States is trying to support human rights, why is it confining its measures to Iran, Libya, and Cuba; and is it only up to the United States to take such measures? This government does not have the right to act like an international policeman." This resolution revealed the extent to which the coalition between Europe and the United States — regarding human rights in Iran — is unstable and without strong foundations.

Although the adoption of such a stance by the European Parliament is unprecedented and promising, nevertheless, it cannot suffice by itself. Today, even the western friends of the United States admit to bias in, and political approaches to, the question of human rights. However, they still harp on the false and unreliable human rights criteria and intelligence sources of the United States. [passage omitted]

2. The policy of critical dialogue: Early this year, representatives from the European Union, known as the "Troika" visited Iran in order to examine the charges made against Iran and to adopt a suitable policy. In response to the U.S. policy of sanctions against Iran and of overthrowing [the Iranian government], this delegation raised the idea of "critical dialogue!" The 18-year-long history of the Islamic revolution shows that Europe has never been a good friend of Iran. The blind friends of the United States in Western Europe have not demonstrated the necessary independence in the face of the fluctuations in the relations between Tehran and Washington.

Now that the White House's sanctions regulations are extending beyond American borders, the Europeans are showing resistance. However, rather than being aimed at defending Iran or any other country targeted by the United States, the policy of dialogue has been raised in defense of overall European interests — against a political friend and an economic rival. It would seem that, if Washington respected European interests, these governments would not complain in the slightest. Proposals prior to the "d'Amato" bill met with and were implemented under European silence for this same reason.

If the principle of trade with Iran is legitimate, why is it that the Europeans have only become excited in defense of the interests of one side of the equation, that is European companies? The experience of self-reliance in revolutionary Iran has made this country immune to the twists and turns and the fluctuations in relations between the United States and Europe. What is going on in the White House is a clash of interests and a result of U.S.-European rivalry. The future is bright for Iran, but, in order to defend its commercial position at a macro level, Europe must hide its Achilles heel in front of the United States.

3. British interests: The two British members of the European Parliament and their representative from that country's House of Lords are also considered to be representing London's interests and wishes. Britain was one of the first governments that approved a measure defending British companies in the face of U.S. sanctions against Iran, Cuba, and Libya. This country has always been one of those players who fire a shot and then hide the gun. In any kind of political attack against Iran, the old man of colonialism plays one of the leading behind-the-scenes parts.

Britain launches attacks with its eyes shut, but, when defending itself, it sees only the interests of British companies when it applies the rules of international trade. The violation of human rights and discrimination against blacks and Muslims have been among the unchanging features of the main Anglo-Saxon society. However, London deflects attention away from itself and toward other countries, such as Iran. In terms of foreign policy, too, the lack of goodwill shown by London has been the main factor for the turbulent relations with Iran since the revolution, and this destructive wave has always had its source on the coasts of Britain.

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In the current circumstances, the interference of the United States across political and commercial international boundaries is gaining momentum. The turtle-paced diplomacy of Europe, with its repetitive stances and pressures, is uselessly treading a beaten path.

Iran: Opposition Leader Seeks More Western Support

MS2106104396 London INDEPENDENT in English 21 Jun 96 p 14

[Interview with Maryan Rajavi, leader of People's Mujahedin of Iran, by John Lichfield in London; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Maryam Rajavi sits presidentially before an Iranian flag in the presidential suite of a leading London hotel. Wearing a lilac suit, lilac headscarf and lilac shoes, she looks, by turn beautiful, serene, vexed.

To her supporters, Mrs Rajavi, 43, is the President-elect of a post-theocratic, democratic Iran — the leader, along with her husband, of the only serious resistance to the fundamentalist regime in Tehran. According to the French authorities, the Iranian regime recently paid her the compliment of plotting to blow her to pieces in her place of exile, a village just outside Paris (shades of Ayatollah Khomeyni).

To her detractors, including many other exiled Iranians and most Western governments, Mrs Rajavi is the figurehead of a deeply suspect, even sinister organisation, the People's Mujahedin of Iran. Despite a plausible veneer of democracy and efficient public relations, critics claim the internal workings of the Mujahedin — and its political wing the National Resistance Council — are as brutal and repressive as anything dreamed up by the Ayatollah and his successors.

"Their background is a kind of anti-Western, Islamic Marxism. She is not as cuddly as she seems," said one Western expert on Iran.

Tonight Mrs Rajavi will make her first public appearance in Britain at an event at Earls Court in London, which is mostly cultural, but finally political. The event, entitled "Women Voice of the Oppressed", is billed as a response to the persecution and repression of women by the fundamentalist brand of Islam popularised in Tehran. More than 20,000 people, including many Iranian exiles, are expected to attend. One of the performers will be the celebrated Iranian diva, Marzieh, who fled Iran two years ago after refusing to sing for 15 years in protest against the rule of the mullahs.

The Earls Court gathering is an attempt by the Iranian resistance to play to what it hopes is one of its strengths. Mrs Rajavi, in her interview with the Independent, said: "We wish to show that Islam is not, in itself misogynist. There can be a moderate Islam which respects women's rights and gives women, as our movement does a prominent role."

The promotion of women within the ranks of the Mujahedin extends to their military wing, a sizeable, armoured force, based, courtesy of Saddam Husayn, on the Iran-Iraq border. Many tank commanders, even battalion commanders, are women. The overall military commander, based in the desert, is Massoud Rajavi, Mrs Rajavi's husband. Despite her status as President-elect Western governments insist that he is the real power in a movement they regard with deep distaste.

Here is a seeming paradox: the Iranian government is one of the most reviled in the world; the Mujahedin are by far the best funded, and best organised, certainly the most visible opposition to that regime. And yet they are almost equally reviled by the powers-that-be in the West. The Iraqi connections are one explanation — but not a complete explanation — for Western hostility. How does Mrs Rajavi account for it?

She giggles patiently and shapes her hands into a triangle. "You know, there is a misconception that Western governments oppose the Iranian regime," she said. "The fact of the matter is that the mullahs in Iran possess so much commercial weight, and Western businesses are so keen to reach deals with them that no government can make a statement of support for the Iranian resistance."

She points out (accurately) that the official investigation into the Iran-Contra scandal showed that the Reagan administration had agreed to vilify her movement as part of Washington's complex and disastrous series of quid pro quos with Tehran. The same sort of understanding with the mullahs exists to this day, she says.

"One of our demands has been that, if Western countries are not prepared to assist the revolution of the Iranian people, at least they should remain neutral. In those circumstances it would not take long for the Iranian people and our movement to, if you like, settle the account and rid the world of the growing menace from Iran."

But what of the equally deep suspicions of many exiled Iranians? The hostility of royalists is understandable: the Mujahedin were co-conspirators with the mullahs against the Shah. They played a part in the popular revolution which overturned the peacock throne in 1978-79, before their turn came to be crushed by Khomeyni in 1981. But what of the many virulent, non- royalist opponents of the mullahs who also express

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antagonism to the Mujahedin? One Iranian said: "If there was any threat of them coming to power, most sensible Iranian exiles would take the side of the mullahs against them. We would be just swapping one tyranny for another and Mujahedin tyranny would probably be more efficient."

Asked about this, Mrs Rajavi becomes animated, even angry. "I think one has to ask, who are these Iranians? Many of these people, despite what they say, prefer the status quo — the Khomeyni regime — to any alternative. There are others who are afraid. There are many proven cases of threats against these people to make these criticisms of us...Everyone says we are well-organised, well-funded. But you have to remember that cannot happen in a vacuum. Our strength and our funds come from the deep roots we have in the people of Iran, both inside and outside the country."

Mrs Rajavi signals to one of her smartly dark-suited male colleagues to bring forward an album showing scores of examples of pro-Mujahedin slogans and posters on walls inside Iran. She insists that the critics are wrong: her movement is not Marxist or authoritarian. It is committed to free markets, free expression, freedom of religion.

"The model of the kind of society and economy I would like to see in Iran would be that of the Nordic countries. We would expect an open society where economic and personal diversity would prosper."

How long will it be before the second Iranian revolution comes? Mrs Rajavi smiles sweetly. She offers no timetable but gives what she admits is a practised reply. "One does not need to wait for spring to arrive to be sure that spring will come."

Iran: Rafsanjani's Daughter Appointed FM Department Head

LD2306102896 Tehran IRNA in English 0831 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's elder daughter, Fatima, has been appointed as head of the women and international social affairs department of the foreign ministry, reported the weekly KAYHAN HAVAI in its latest issue, quoting an informed source.

Fatima Hashemi replaced Ms. Abbassi who is now an advisor to foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, added the report.

The source, whose name was not disclosed, said the appointment was made last week on the order of deputy foreign minister for international affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Fatima Hashemi formerly led the institution for hemophiliac and kidney diseases.

Iran: AKHBAR Defends Female Deputy's Election to Majles Committee

LD2106220496 Tehran AKHBAR in Persian 19 Jun 96 p 2

[From the "Diary" column by Amir Dariush: "Faultfinding, Generalization, the Problem"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The news that Ms. Qodseyeh Alavi had been elected as a member of the Majles Foreign Relations Committee has not been well received by a permanently angry evening daily. Commenting on this news, this evening paper has written: "Even though the presence of a female deputy in the Majles foreign Relations Committee, for the first time, opens the way for more active participation on the part of female deputies, it is still fitting to bear in mind the professional experience, expertise, and activities of the deputy in question."

It is not very difficult to criticize and find faults with everyone and everything. Generalizations are even easier to make. When something is said in this way, anyone reading it will think that an ordinary member of the public has become a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, whereas, this respected deputy was also a deputy in the fourth Majles. She does, therefore, have parliamentary experience.

Another point is that she is a qualified medical doctor with post-doctoral specialization. There is, therefore, no lack of knowledge or ability here.

If you say that a medical doctor should not become a member of the Majles Foreign Relations Committee, we will then tell you: The foreign minister is a qualified medical doctor and specialist in children's diseases.

Iran: Tehran Students Protest Higher Education Policies

LD2106160896 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 18 Jun 96 p 2

[Report from the "Political Desk": "Tehran University Students Rally To Protest Higher Education Policies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran: A group of the Tehran University students rallied in the university mosque on Sunday [16 June] in protest to policies and policy-makers of higher education.

Abolfazl Fateh, a member of the Tehran University Islamic Society, addressed the rally stating that Islamization of the universities were for creating more facilities

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for the deprived and revolutionary groups to go to universities, establishment of increased relations between the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution with the rank and file in the universities, appointment of university managers with consideration for views of the Muslim students and professors and avoiding specific political tendencies in appointment of the higher education minister.

"We should not get to a point along the lines of reconstruction to give the impression to the world community that we regret the revolution, assistance to international movements, the death sentence on Salman Rushdie and the opposition to Israel. The acceptable kind of development must contain all the views of the revolution."

Fateh said the higher education's biggest flaw is lack of solid, positive and comprehensive relationship with the students.

In regard to Islamizing universities, he said that the deputy culture and higher education minister has held the same policies of the past few years without the slightest change.

He added that Islamization is not possible under those conditions.

"I ask officials not to use the issue for settling political scores and to amend their mistaken policies. Under the present conditions, it would be impossible to reform the universities, if the opinions of Muslim students and professors are not taken heed of."

On the expansion of the Islamic Azad University, he commented that it should not be expanded the way it is, because it is not being clear if it is centred on ethics, Islam and revolution. He added it appears to be centred around money, capital and certificate.

"We do not have a right to assign the fate of the universities to the affluent private sector. Because only the affluent persons would enter the universities and the specialization certificate of the revolution would be taken by the affluent group [as received]. The Imam [Khomeyni] had prohibited association with the affluent people," he added.

Fateh referred to the impact of liberalism and religious hypocrites by saying that liberalism and intellectualism leave impact on the external and internal aspects of persons.

He added that hypocrites would not leave an impact on the appearance. It would however divest the society from revolutionary ideas, 'Abrar' reported.

In regard to the above issues, he referred to the late Imam's remark stating that liberals would sell the country overnight and hypocrites would empty the revolution from within and without.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Prime Minister Decries Opposition's Strike Call

BK2206162996 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has emphatically stated that if there is any sort of strike it will not harm the government in any manner but will only affect the people. She said this while speaking to reporters in Parliament House this evening. The prime minister conceded that it is anyone's right to call a strike, but it should be avoided in the interest of smooth political activity. She said a strike will affect the situation. She announced in categorical terms that the government will continue even after any strike appeal. She asked the opposition to wait until the next election in two years and, instead of strikes, win the mandate of the people through these elections. The prime minister stressed that there is no threat to democracy and [word indistinct] conspiracies will not help topple the government. She said her government is working to build the country's future and is trying to improve the lot of the common man, including youths and the working class.

Giving statistical data, she said the government has no alternative but to mobilize additional resources to repay debts and fulfill defense expenditures. She said a major portion of national income is spent on the repayment of debts and on defense. Therefore, we have no choice but to generate more resources to fulfill these vital national requirements. She said that in view of the threat posed by India to our national security, we cannot reduce our defense expenditures.

Referring to the criticism of next year's budget, the prime minister categorically stated that the budget is aimed at expediting the pace of development in the greater interests of the Pakistani people. She said: For this purpose, we have formulated a plan to provide more civilian amenities to the common man. The prime minister regretted that after its failure to involve the armed forces in its political plan, the opposition is now trying to win support from other institutions to fulfill its political designs. She declared that the opposition will not succeed.

In reply to a question, she said that during its strike in Lahore tomorrow, the opposition is bent upon acquiring a dead body in order to inflame feelings against the government. She said government officials have taken all safety measures to prevent violence during the strike.

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In reply to another question, she said that a few years ago the government raised the salaries of government employees by 35 percent. Thereafter, their allowances were enhanced last year. She said that by reducing the tax rates this year, they have been provided with indirect benefits.

Pakistan: Interior Minister Says Opposition Strike Call Unjustified

BK2206135996 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The business community in general as well as people representing different walks of life have expressed dismay over the strike call given by the PML-N [Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz] group and decided to dissociate themselves from the strike. The Federation of [Pakistani] Chambers of Commerce and Industry [FPCCI] and All Pakistan Textile Mills Association have already announced they would not participate in the strike called by the PML-N on Sunday. In response to the invitation by the government for talks on budgetary proposal, the FPCCI has decided not to participate in the strike.

The stock exchanges of Karachi, Islamabad, and Lahore have also announced their decision not to join the strike and said any call for strike would cause great impediment to the national economy and is against the interests of the people. They have said it is always advisable to settle issues through dialogue rather than going on strike. They were of the opinion that strike damages the country's economy and does not lead to solution of problems.

Chambers of commerce and industry of all the major cities of the country have also decided not to observe strike on the call of the opposition. Small traders, transporters, dock workers, and other bodies dealing in public service have also announced their dissociation from tomorrow's strike.

The interior minister, Mr. Nasirullah Khan Babar, in an interview with APP said it is the democratic right of the opposition to observe strike. He, however, said it is not justified when the government is prepared to give consideration to genuine proposals of the opposition in the budget. The minister advised the opposition not to create law and order situation to force the people to join the strike. He said the government will under no circumstances allow anyone to play with law and order and endanger the life and property of law-abiding citizens. Mr. Nasirullah Khan Babar said the disgruntled elements may try to use youths for their nefarious designs. He appealed to parents to persuade their children not to be used by such elements, otherwise they will be dealt with severely. He, however, said it is only an appeal to the parents and not a threat.

Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and Lahore district administrations have prohibited pillion riding of motorcycles in their respective territorial limits with immediate effect for a period of 10 days. Announcements made by the district magistrates today said these restrictions have been imposed to avoid any threat to public peace and tranquility.

Pakistan: Opposition Sponsored Strike 'Partially' Observed

BK2306133696 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Strike in response to the call given by the opposition against the federal budget was partially observed in different parts of the country today. In the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, the strike was partial as major business and trading centers and other commercial centers functioned normally; however, certain shops at these places were found closed. Small markets, vendors, and other business houses in peripheral areas remained open. Islamabad stock exchange was open and transacted business. Similarly, normal flow of traffic was witnessed on roads and streets.

In Karachi, the strike was also partially observed as shopping centers in many areas, financial institutions, and commercial establishments functioned routinely. The Karachi Stock Exchange remained operative, and trading was carried out smoothly. Industrial units in the city and its suburbs, including Landhi and Korangi areas, remained operative. Port activity at Karachi was reported to be normal. The flow of vehicular traffic was also normal in the metropolitan city. Shopping centers and commercial establishments in some areas, however, remained close.

Similarly, normal activity was also witnessed in Lahore today, where business houses, shops, commercial centers, and other units of trading carried on their business in a routine manner. Reports from Quetta and Peshawar says life remained normal in the two provincial capitals and other cities of the province.

Pakistan: Traders, Industrialists Reject Opposition's Strike Call

BK2206100296 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] People representing various walks of life, including traders and industrialists, have rejected opposition leader Mohammad Nawaz Sharif's

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call for a strike against the new federal budget. A 25-member representative delegation of traders and industrialists called on Sindh Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah in Karachi yesterday and announced their complete dissociation with the opposition's appeal for a strike. The delegation was led by S.M. Munir, chairman of the Organization on Trade and Exhibition. He assured the chief minister that they will open their shops, commercial centers, and industries as usual on 23 June. The delegation also assured the government of the total support and cooperation of traders and industrialists in connection with the implementation of its economic policies.

Syed Abdullah Shah said the government is sincere in resolving the problems of the trading community. The distinguished personalities comprising the delegation were: Karachi Stock Exchange President Arif Habib; (Siraj Qasim Teddy), former president of the Karachi Stock Exchange; S.M. Nasir, member of the Federation of Chambers of Industries and Commerce; and Sheikh Manzar Alam, chairman of the Korangi Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

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